



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018, 8:00 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Susan Ellis, Judy Hamer, Catherine Lewis, Maggie Mudd, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Dolores Paoli, Zoe Tarrant, and Elaine Daignault

Guests: Rebecca Marsick (Westport Schools), Julie Heller (Westport Schools)

The meeting was called to order at 8:12AM.

Approval of Minutes: Maggie offered an addendum to the September 4th minutes. Catherine moved that the amended minutes be approved. Judy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

What's Up:

1. Jeff Pegues spoke at a Westport Library-sponsored session at Saugatuck Congregational Church last evening featuring his new book, Komprodat: How Russia Undermined American Democracy. [Maggie introduced him at the session.] "Race" was the effective tool the Russians used to divide us.
2. Trevor Noah (The Daily Show) will appear at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport on November 11th, hosted by the ADL during their 2018 "Voices" program.
3. There is a series on Netflix ("Lessons from a School Shooting: Notes from Dunblane") about dealing with gun violence.
4. "America to Me" is another series on Starz that explores race, based upon Oak Park, IL.
5. The Ackerman Institute for the Family is currently doing a series on race that is geared more toward therapists. We should explore topics to be presented in Westport.
6. There was a report on NPR that Muslim immigration is effectively nil while certain other immigration has increased five-fold.
7. Alison is looking at putting together a trip to the Equal Justice Initiative, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, AL.

Programming:

1. TW Book Club: Barracoon, by Zola Neale Hurston, will be the book to be discussed on October 15th at 7 at the Westport Historical Society (WHS). This will be a week before the publisher of the book comes to give a talk at the WHS.
2. Essay Contest: Susan is framing a topic for this year's contest and is continuing to solicit input and feedback from the group.
3. MLK Planning Committee/Anti-Racism Training: The plans for Anti-Racism Training came out of the 2018 MLK Celebration at which time the community raised money to fund such an effort in Westport. After several discussions with Dr. Ibram Kendi (our speaker at the 2018 MLK program) and his team at the Anti-Racist Research and Policy Center at American University, we are planning to run two day-long sessions in Westport – each one consisting of 5 to 6 hours. The first and pilot session is tentatively scheduled for December 11th followed by another one a few months later with some tailoring and tweaking. The expected deliverable will be action plans for each participating organization designed to achieve anti-racism.

Planning for the 2019 MLK Celebration is ongoing. A meeting is scheduled for later today at 2PM. We are still working on getting a speaker for Sunday, January 20th, 2019; the rest of the program is in place.



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4. Westport Historical Society:

1) Today Coleytown Middle School students visited the exhibit entitled *Remembered: The History of African Americans in Westport*. Other school groups have attended before now and more are planning to attend. The exhibit and Ramin have been nominated for awards.

2) The session "Traces of the Trade", presented by members of the DeWolf family, was very good. The DeWolf family made money by trading enslaved people and are now educating everyone about the impact of this trafficking upon history by telling their story.

3) Judy's talk at the WHS about her family history was very well-received and had a large audience.

5. Playhouse: We are now working on setting up programming for next season's pieces. The play *Mlima's Tale*, by Lynn Nottage, is one of the productions on the schedule for next year.

Two classes from the high school are going this season to see *Thousand Pines*. Also, classes are coming to see *Man of La Mancha*, playing now.

Education:

1. Strategic Planning: No update.

2. Staples: The TEAM Westport Staples club is being formed again with current students. It is listed in the directory of clubs at Staples with Rebecca Marsick as the advisor. Elaine will look at how the students in the Kool to be Kind club can connect with TEAM Westport Staples students.

3. PTA: Catherine and Zoe are presenting to the Saugatuck Elementary PTA on November 9th at 9AM.

Marketing:

Web: We each need to update our profiles that appear on the TEAM Westport website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28AM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary