

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2012, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Patricia Wei, Steve Daniels, Judy Hamer, Bernicestine McLeod, Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Barbara Butler, and Stephane Kirven

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 AM.

New Business:

What's Up

1. Harold had distributed for discussion and perspective a copy of an article from a 1989 Westport News issue about black residents in Westport.
2. '*Clybourne Park*' will be here (in NYC) through August 12. We are trying to arrange a date for a TEAM Westport outing to see the play in preparation for seeing '*A Raisin in the Sun*' in October.

Old Business

Education Committee

- The Committee elected to not present the Staples award this year to any students. In order to receive good nominations in the future, the Committee may proactively meet with guidance counselors in the Fall to review the purpose of the award.
- A group from TEAM Westport met about Open Choice a month ago. One idea that came out of that meeting is to make a video using the success stories from Open Choice alumni as well as those of students who are currently participating in the program and to include students from Westport. We are now trying to identify who might film and produce the video including possibly high school students. We would need funding, too. The video could be used to build a sense of continuity for the Open Choice program, have great community impact, and be used to raise money and awareness for the program as well as recruit.
- Patricia and Maggie would like to work on this. We would like to coordinate with the PTA and, from a timing point of view, do so by the early Fall. Additionally, we will need to coordinate with the Board of Education.

Playhouse Partnership Update:

- Bernicestine and Harold met with the CEO of the Southern CT Urban League at the Playhouse with David Kennedy and the staff. There are some very strong possible synergies there that we'll be pursuing in reference to '*A Raisin in the Sun*' and in general with regard to our TEAM Westport purpose and direction.
- We shall be meeting with the Clergy Association meeting today at noon (Barbara, Bernicestine, Harold, and Maggie) along with the Playhouse staff including David Kennedy. Catherine will be meeting with Saugatuck clergy and Judy is going to the NAACP tonight with David Kennedy. The Carver Center in Norwalk is on board.
- Stephane has put together a very comprehensive plan involving Sacred Heart University (SHU).
 - Stephane is co-director of the Social Justice Learning and Living Community at SHU. Students within this community will get credit for attending a performance.

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- Panels or conversations can be presented on the topic – the politics of space, race, and place in Hansberry's *'A Raisin in the Sun'*. Several faculty members would discuss this topic from different aspects. We can determine what the format should be given the content. This could be one panel or a series of lectures.
 - A sociologist would talk about race, gender, identity, disenfranchisement, and poverty in the 50s.
 - From a legal point of view, the discussion would focus upon issues pertaining to the Great Migration – leaving the South, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination with regard to covenants related to housing.
 - A Religion professor would discuss the intergenerational religious conflict between Beneatha Younger and her mother Lena (Mama). Lena has a more traditional faith whereas Beneatha's is not as strong nor did she have the same religious background.
 - A professor of English would look at Lorraine Hansberry's personal life (her parents went through this experience depicted in the play) and do a critical race analysis of the play.

Action: We shall do further work on this to determine venue, dates, publicity, etc. and will coordinate with community groups for attendance.

Programming Strategy and GamePlan:

- We still would like to have Westporters take the 'Project Implicit' online survey. This would result in a Westport profile. Harold will reissue the URL for the survey so that we can take it.
- We briefly discussed whether we would be presenting the Trailblazer Award this year and possible recipients.
- We talked about possible Conversations for this year, and a calendar will be put together soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Note: This will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month versus the 1st Tuesday due to the July 4th holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary