

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2012, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Catherine Onyemelukwe, Harold Bailey, Jr. (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Susan Ellis, Judy Hamer, Stephane Kirven, Barbara Butler, and Dolores Paoli

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the May and June meetings were reviewed.

Catherine made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy seconded the motion.

New Business:

What's Up:

1. End Game (about AIDS in Black America) is being aired on CNN tonight. The number of African Americans with AIDS is skyrocketing; especially women.
2. We discussed the play *Clybourne Park* that is currently on Broadway and will be at Long Wharf next year. It is a "companion" to 'A Raisin in the Sun' and won a Tony for 'best drama' although the playwright was astounded that he's gotten awards. It received a blistering review by Frank Rich. Play says racism is not over but is more subtle.
Action: Harold will put out another Doodle to try to arrange a date in August for us to attend as a group.
3. There was an NAACP Silent Protest in NYC against 'Stop and Frisk'.
4. Ramadan starts July 21st.

Old Business:

Education Committee

Open Choice Update:

Having a film about Open Choice produced by a group at Staples is unlikely. The response is that the class has so many projects that they would not be able to get to this until later.

Action: We will need funding, but can contact a videographer that Harold had spoken with a few years ago. Patricia can set up a meeting once we locate him. Judy will follow up with Dick Leonard about involvement.

Curriculum Proposals:

The Westport School system has not, thus far, been involved with planning for 'Raisin in the Sun'. Susan might be interested in pursuing assisting with planning discussions or programming for the students after they see the play.

Action: Harold will follow up with the Westport School system.

Playhouse Partnership Update

A meeting of the heads of Diversity from several corporations as well as representatives of various organizations was held on June 26th. Attendance was very good. There is a lot of interest in supporting

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'*A Raisin in the Sun*' and other projects. The conversation can continue and will extend over a longer term than just during the production run. The diversity officers are interested in targeted funding and are now waiting for next steps.

- ✓ Phylicia Rashad will lead a session on Sunday, October 14th after the 3PM performance. As mentioned above, *Clybourne Park* is going to Long Wharf in the spring and there will be an arrangement with the Playhouse so that patrons can see both.

- ✓ Stephane met with David Kennedy and Jen McCool. There's lots of excitement about what Stephane is planning at Sacred Heart University (SHU) since it's a chance to give history and context to this play that may not have been inherently obvious.
 - The venue will be SHU giving the Playhouse an opportunity to venture out of Westport, particularly since there are a lot of activities going on around that time at the Playhouse itself.
 - TEAM Westport, the Playhouse, and SHU will be co-sponsors.
 - Date/Time: September 27th and October 3rd from 7-8:30 PM.
 - The first presentation's format is a conversation between 3 professors. Registration will be requested beforehand. The Playhouse and WSHU will be asked to do some marketing. Al Puchala will moderate this presentation.
 - Harold will moderate the October 3rd presentation.
 - David Levinson might want to host a similar program at Norwalk Community College. We are discussing that now.

- ✓ We need a calendar of events from the Playhouse. We are considering hosting a TEAM Westport evening at the Playhouse during the run of '*A Raisin in the Sun*' – maybe the Thursday night when the Talk Back session with the actors takes place (November 1).

- ✓ Several of us met with the Clergy along with representatives from the Playhouse.

Action:

 1. Have Harold or David Kennedy write up the activities around '*A Raisin in the Sun*' summarizing community involvement.
 2. Barbara will get the information to the social action committee chairs for each congregation via email and try to pull together a meeting in September.
 3. In addition, Catherine and Dolores met with the new pastor of Saugatuck.

Programming Strategy and Gameplan

- ✓ '*Harbor*' starts at the Playhouse on August 28th and runs until September 15th. We have been looking at what programming makes sense. One idea is to celebrate folks who have had great lives in Westport – being gay in Westport. The question is whether we can we make it happen.

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Action: Talk to Psych Services about any issues with kids or parents here in town. Also speak with members of the community for ideas.

- ✓ Tracy Sugarman and Bill Buckley will be showing their documentary films on the Black Experience and on Immigration during a month of programming at the Senior Center. They plan to begin the first week of October just before 'A Raisin in the Sun' opens. Following the showing of their films in the afternoons, conversation will take place.
Action: Be sure to let the Playhouse know about this activity.
- ✓ Project Implicit:
Action: See if we can work with Harvard to be able to keep Westport statistics on residents' attitudes about discrimination as they take the survey.
- ✓ Houston Center
Action: Dolores will contact the Houston Center at Harvard re: potential for their involvement with us based upon their extensive work surrounding school desegregation in CT.

We won't meet in August. Because of the Labor Day holiday on September 3rd, our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11th, at 7:30 AM in Room 201, Westport Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary