

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2012, 7:30 AM
Room 102
Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Maggie Mudd, Judy Hamer, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Susan Ellis, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Patricia Wei, Bernicestine McLeod, Brett Aronow, Dolores Paoli, Stephane Kirven, Barbara Butler

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by Harold.

The draft minutes for our July meeting were reviewed (there was no meeting in August). Susan made a motion that they be approved and Maggie seconded. The minutes are to be filed.

New Business

What's Up?:

1. **Action:** The members of TEAM Westport resolved to name our Staples scholarship in honor of Nick Rudd – our longtime member who is extremely ill at the moment.
2. We discussed ways to participate in voter registration drives as individuals or as participants with various groups. Some of our members have already been involved in voter registration drives locally as well as in other states with more to come.
3. We are encouraging telephone parties and/or postcard mailings to get people out to vote once they are registered.

Old Business

Playhouse Partnership Update (*A Raisin in the Sun*):

1. Angela Boerger is working on the study guide for '*A Raisin in the Sun*'. Susan will review and give reactions and suggestions to Angela.
2. All 10th graders at Staples are going to 'Raisin' (100 tickets sold) and will read the play as outside reading (there will be discussions).
3. Judy attended the first workshop for educators yesterday at the Playhouse. There were people there who had taught it. There were apparently no teachers from Westport or Fairfield or Norwalk at the educational workshop yesterday. This may be a timing issue, though, since school just started. Lois Brown taught the session. She is into excavating black writers and is very good. There is an educational video that can be sent out via blogs. There are study guides.
4. The Playhouse is collaborating with Long Wharf since '*Clybourne Park*' will be at Long Wharf in March.
5. Several college student groups will be attending the production including students from Sacred Heart University (SHU).
6. Stephane's panel discussion at SHU has been consolidated to one day instead of two. The desired date is the evening of Thursday, September 27, 2012, instead of October 3rd.
7. **Actions:**
 - a. Brett will speak to Lis Comm and Cindy Gilcrest to make sure students know about the next Teacher's Workshop on October 15 as well as the film screening of 'To Be Young, Gifted and Black' scheduled for Monday, October 29th, at 7PM at the Playhouse.
 - b. Harold will get to Jim D'Amico on the same topics as above.
 - c. We need to publicize the SHU panel discussion.

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8. There is an opportunity for corporate participation and buy-in. The process was started with a meeting in late June of representatives in the areas of recruiting, affinity groups, and community involvement from local corporations as well as heads of civic and community organizations. The plan is to touch base again with them in a follow-up meeting in October to arrive at some ways in which everyone can potentially be involved in 'continuing the discussion' surrounding issues raised by *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Overall, the Playhouse is excited by the extensive outreach we've been able to obtain for this production.

Programming Strategy and Game Plan:

1. *Harbor* is currently playing at the Playhouse. Reviews have been excellent. The Playhouse has some programming around the topic of sexual orientation.
2. A Tracy Sugarman and Bill Buckley film series will be presented at the Senior Center during the run of *A Raisin in the Sun*. The films (one each week) will allow for discussion of some of the issues raised in *Raisin*.
3. Other vehicles that would provide us with a lens on issues raised by *Raisin* with respect to Westport are:
 - a. 'Project Implicit' that we've mentioned for a while now.
 - b. Michelle Norris – 'The Race Card Project'. Her memoir is *The Grace of Silence*.
Action: Stephane proposes doing something around this project.
Judy and Dolores will work with Stephane.
Maggie will contact the Library.
 - c. StoryCorps.org
 - d. As possible speakers:
 - i. Susan Eaton – *The Children in Room E4* (Sheff v. O'Neill)
 - ii. Brown U. Professors (Tricia Rose and others)
 - iii. Yale Law School Professors (particularly in light of the amicus brief with regard to affirmative action).
 - e. Discussion of immigration and the perception of 'takers' versus 'non-takers' or 'givers'.

Conversations:

Education Committee –Open Choice (Project Concern Video)

Action: We are still trying to find a videographer. Harold will follow up with Bill Buckley for suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 7:30 AM in Room 201, Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod, Secretary