

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2013, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Judy Hamer, Brett Aronow, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Dolores Paoli, and Barbara Butler

Guest: Jim Marpe

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Catherine suggested amendments to the minutes for the February 5, 2013 meeting – the dates for the Odyssey Program at the Unitarian Church in April. Catherine moved acceptance of the minutes and Maggie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

New Business

What's Up:

- Jim Marpe joined us at our meeting. He sits on the Board of the Stamford Symphony as did Nick Rudd who was an integral part of TEAM Westport. Jim announced that the Stamford Symphony and the Greenwich Choral Society will be joining forces to do a concert (Beethoven's Ninth) in memory of Nick on March 24th at the Palace Theater in Stamford. Immediately following the concert, there will be a reception and toast to Nick in the Founders Room. Jim extended an invitation to the members of TEAM Westport to attend. Tickets for the concert are still available. Nick did a lot of work with both groups – fulfilling his love for music.
- Harold mentioned the anniversary of the freedom riders that is being celebrated now. The fact that the Chief of Police of Montgomery apologized to John Lewis is interesting. It's almost as amazing as Barack Obama being elected. Nevertheless, there are still problems to be resolved.

Old Business

Programming Strategy and Game Plan

We are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. We are developing a theme for this year (from the Civil War to Civil Rights) and hope to connect with the school system. We also would like to collaborate with other organizations and message this theme appropriately. The programming around 'A Raisin in the Sun' was helpful in being able to reach other organizations now.

- Recap of Recent Programming:
 - Eric Falkenstein presented at the Library on February 12th. In 2001, he saw a film about Martin Luther King and thought that his story should be dramatized. The King family asked him to do the play. The first part will be ready the end of this year. It is more difficult for him to do research for the play since many of the people who knew Reverend King are passing away.
 - Harold's presentation to the Sunrise Rotary on February 8th went fine. The updated presentation will be distributed to our members.
 - *Intimate Apparel* was very good. The performance on February 11th was sold out.
 - Letters from students at Bassick who attended 'A Raisin in the Sun' were distributed to TEAM Westport members. It was wonderful to read about the impact the performance

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2013, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

had on the students. KPMG mentors the students and sponsored their attendance at the performance.

- Coming Up:

- Sick from Freedom (April 3rd at the Library)
- The New Jim Crow (Discussion session at the Unitarian Church, April 8th, 15th, 29th).
- Clinging to Mammy
- Jim Basker – American anti-slavery writings by people from all walks of life (May 9th).
- Videos on *Eyes on the Prize* in September at the Library
- *Clybourne Park* at Long Wharf – we are working with David Kennedy to put together programming with the Ministries Group. Judy will follow up to see what we want to do in town.
- *The Trip to Bountiful* by Horton Foote is coming to Broadway.
- *Oblivion* is coming up this fall at the Westport Country Playhouse about religious schisms between generations. We might program for that. We can also see what's good for conversations.
- We might consider doing a conversation around Voting Rights in light of the impending Supreme Court decision.
- This Sunday, March 10th, there'll be a session entitled 'Women in Islam' at St. Luke's Church at 4PM.
- TEAM Westport is co-sponsoring a program with the Interfaith Council of Westport and Weston on April 28th at 4PM at Temple Israel entitled "What We Wish Others Knew about Our Faith Tradition". The event will consist of a 3-person panel with Rabbi Robert Orkand of Temple Israel, Rev. Ed Horne of the United Methodist Church, and Professor H. Kamaly of Barnard College. It is meant to be a conversation among the three members of the panel about what we hold most dear about our faith communities and want others to know and appreciate.

- Additional Programming Items:

- A Decade of Difference should be our overall theme. We have been meeting for 10 years this year. We became a Town Committee in 2005.
 - Action: Harold will finish up the Town Reports for the past few years. We should have a good body of material.
- The report by the Hartford Courant about police stops in Westport is still to be discussed and researched.
 - Action: We need to schedule a meeting with First Selectman Gordon Joseloff and Chief Dale Call.

Education

1. We would love to have students come to our programming as described above. We need to get the word out. Nighttime should be better from a scheduling point of view, although the students do have a lot of homework. Our programming fits in with the new curricular

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2013, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

emphasis on using factual sources. It especially fits if our events are coordinated with the curriculum.

2. We still have the opportunity to do a video on Open Choice, but that is a big undertaking. We may also fund scholarships for college for an Open Choice student. This may be possible through Staples Tuition Grants.
3. We intend to offer the Staples Award this year. A description of the award can be put up on the website. It should also be added to the Guidance List of awards on the Staples site. Guidance counselors and administrators and teachers may recommend students to receive the award.
4. Human Services is developing a program to assist parents in filling out forms for financial aid.

Marketing Committee:

Catherine is taking on the responsibility for marketing. Dolores and Judy will be helping as well. Maggie will coordinate through the Library. We can start by talking about the Town Report and our theme for the year. Catherine will be making contact with people who have Facebook and Twitter expertise.

On this Sunday (March 10th), Christ and Holy Trinity Church is honoring Bill Meyer. Also, on this Sunday, Harold Levine is being honored at the Neighborhood Studios performance at the Playhouse.

Maggie mentioned the impact on her of Judy's story about her family's experiences relative to housing throughout several generations. Judy presented at the Unitarian Church on January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in Room 201 of the Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary