

**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2012, 7:30 AM**  
**Room 201**  
**Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 AM.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes for our November 6, 2012, meeting was made by Judy and seconded by Susan. The minutes were approved by vote.

**New Business**

What's Up?

We briefly discussed the presidential election and the apparent role of America's changing demographics.

**Old Business**

Programming Strategy and Game Plan

1. Sunrise Rotary – Harold's presentation to the Sunrise Rotary about TEAM Westport had to be rescheduled. A date will be announced.
2. Road to Clybourne Park – we want to keep the momentum going that was created by 'A Raisin in the Sun' with regard to discussions of race, ethnicity, and other issues. The primary vehicles at hand to work with TEAM Westport in impacting programming with regard to racism are
  - 1) a leadership group out of Stamford comprised of the heads of social organizations as well as corporate diversity officers and
  - 2) the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (Larri Mazon).

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Eric Falkenstein, the producer of Clybourne Park, will speak at the Westport Library. He is currently working on a play about Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He will talk about what he learned that not many people know about MLK.

3. Other Programming
  - a. Tracy Sugarman is speaking this week at the Library about his first novel (December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2PM).
  - b. MLK Birthday plans: TEAM Westport is planning to coordinate with the Unitarian Church and the Interfaith Council for programming on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Judy has her great grandparent's manumission paper that might be used for display.
  - c. James Basker (Barnard professor) has put together a history of anti-slavery writings (compendium). There has been enormous interest in this work since the *Lincoln* movie.
  - d. We would like to contact the author of *Sick from Freedom* who is at Connecticut College to come to present to the community.
  - e. Dolores has an article about African Americans from Westport in the Civil War.

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- f. On a side note, we discussed the Negro University Press as a publishing company that was here in Westport at least during the 1960's and 1970's. It published many books including one by Powell Clayton in 1971 – *The Aftermath of the Civil War in Arkansas*.
  - g. 'Reel Justice' is an ongoing program at the Unitarian Church coordinated by David Vita that features films. We can partner during some of these. However, we would need to do press releases continually to communicate to the community.
  - h. *Celebrate Westport* –  
Action: Harold will ask Shelley Kassan, Second Selectman, about TEAM Westport involvement.
  - i. *Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans* by Alison Owings may be of possible interest as a book/author to feature here in Westport at some point.
4. Overall, for all of our programming, we need to be more visible and will continue to work on becoming so.

Education Committee

1. We would like to have James D'Amico (Social Studies Department Chair, Westport Schools) come back to talk to us further about the new theme-based curriculum. We are exploring how extensively primary sources are used during instruction and whether this methodology can be permanently programmed.

2. We would also like to get an update on the diversity strategy for the Westport Board of Education: what is it, where is it, how does it operate? Recruiting teachers should be outlined as part of this strategy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 AM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 7:30 AM at Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary