

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2014, 7:30 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

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

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

Minutes: Catherine moved that the minutes of January 14, 2014, be approved. Brett seconded. The motion carried and the minutes will be posted.

What's Up:

- 1) There was an interview with the star of *12 Years a Slave* on Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood.
- 2) There is a new book by the 'Tiger Mom' and her husband (one of the sections was Nigerian). They also go through African American perspectives in the book. Question is whether it is a good portrayal.
- 3) Dan Woog is going to do an article on TEAM Westport for our 10th Anniversary.
- 4) We talked about Point of View (POV) on PBS and the showing of American Promise which followed two African American male children at the prestigious Dalton School in New York City.
- 5) Harold and Bernicestine attended the 'Music on the Road to Freedom' performance at the Norfield Congregational Church in Weston on January 26th – Pastor Bernard Wilson. The performance was very good.

Old Business:

Education Committee:

-Diversity Essay Contest

- We will print more posters to put up.
- We will send Principal Dodig reminders.
- Susan has put posters around town and the schools. The scoring rubric has been designed and sent to the judges.
- Guidance counselors are emphasizing the contest.
- Youth groups at all of the churches, Inklings, PTA, Toquet Hall, PYD, Youth Commission are other target groups.
- The town has been proactive about sending out messages which is very encouraging. There is more emphasis on social media.
- Information has been sent to some of the independent schools in the area as well including St. Lukes, Hopkins, and GFA.

Action:

- a. Harold and Susan will work on the procedure to get the essays to the judges anonymously.
- b. Set up a meeting with Kelle at the Library to talk about the ceremony on March 31st. Let's try for the 6th or the 7th.

Governance Committee:

- We can now take donations through the Town.
- **Action:**
Catherine, Dolores, and Harold will work on a communications packet to hand out to people/donors going forward.

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Programming Strategy and Game Plan:

- 1) We are proceeding to cosponsor the screening of *The Amistad* on March 2nd at the Library with Rev. Alison Patton.
- 2) We are also looking into getting the ship The Amistad again. Catherine has talked to the company about doing this. The ship is in Connecticut from the end of June till October. It can dock in Stamford or Bridgeport and it has a 10.6 inch keel. She has the price for a harbor sail (2-4 hours for 45 people) or a dockside tour (2-4 hours for 105 people). They are starting to book the ship now. This would also be co-sponsored by Rev. Patton. We tried to determine the best time so that we can attract other people as well as the church community. Perhaps late June before everyone goes away for the summer. The last time we 'hosted' the Amistad was early June 2004.
- 3) Carrie Mae Weems has an art exhibit as reported by the NY Times. Is it possible to get her exhibit here at the Arts Center?
- 4) Also there is an exhibit on Brooklyn anti-slavery heroes.
- 5) *12 Years a Slave* is being scheduled for a screening in May at the Library co-sponsored with Rev. Patton.
- 6) We are on track with planning for *Intimate Apparel* with the Westport Playhouse this fall.

Outreach Committee:

- Clergy Association Presentation -- Harold is having a luncheon meeting with the clergy today to talk about TEAM Westport in general and to get their buy-in and involvement with the Essay Contest.
- Harold reported on his presentation to the Rotary on January 14th. Not many people had heard of TEAM Westport. They had lots of questions. Dave Matlow has offered his help where ever we need it.

Marketing Committee:

- 1) Recommended Web Additions/Revisions:

Action: Move the 'Friends of TEAM Westport FaceBook link' on the page.
Add a QR Code.
Shorten the home page.

- 2) Reading Recommendations:

We are still building our book list. The recommendation is to add Black Stats by Monique W. Morris. Also we should take the survey from Black Stats.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 AM, Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in Room 201 of Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine E. McLeod
Secretary