

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2014, 8:00 AM
Room 309, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Steve Daniels, Susan Ellis, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Brett Aronow, and Barbara Butler

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM by Harold Bailey.

Susan moved that the minutes for our October 7th, 2014, meeting be approved. Catherine seconded. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

What's Up?

1. Catherine's memoir has been published.
2. Harold spoke about TEAM Westport at the Y's Women on October 27th. The session was very well attended.

OLD BUSINESS

Programming

1. Westport Country Playhouse – "Intimate Apparel" Recap:
The run ended on November 1st. The impact on the community was good. The play had been performed in Stamford recently, so this may have impacted the attendance overall. Harold did a TV spot and mentioned TEAM Westport's support and our purpose with respect to participation with the Playhouse in this effort and others.
2. Books featuring 'Kids of Color':
There will be a meeting tomorrow at the Library following a meeting that was held last week. We are working with the Library and some publishers to raise awareness. The goal is for ALL kids to function well within our multicultural world. Community partnerships and resources will be researched.
3. "The New Jim Crow" Initiative:
As a follow up to our reading and discussion in 2013 of the book "The New Jim Crow", we will brainstorm to see how we might continue the conversation and potentially take action next year with reference to Westport. Rev. Alison Patton from Saugatuck Congregational Church is quite interested in pursuing this topic further, so we shall explore possibilities at a future meeting.
4. Westport Library Update: To be discussed at a later meeting.
5. Both Maggie and Dolores are exploring how we might lead a community conversation or other programming about the perception of Muslims in the USA in general as well as locally. Recent headlines have highlighted controversial comments by Bill Maher with respect to Islam. We would like for our community to be informed and aware. Several programs to work toward this goal have taken place in the past, but there is a continuing need for us all to understand.

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6. We along with all of the Westport non-profits and community organizations have been participating in the "Celebrate Westport" meetings that take place on the first Friday of each month. We will continue to make sure our events are listed on the community calendar that is produced by "Celebrate Westport".

Education

Essay Contest:

Everything is on track. We are still pursuing sponsorships for our community-wide contest directed toward high school students. The topic has been identified and the contest will be launched soon.

Governance

Membership:

Catherine moved that we establish a TEAM Westport Advisory Council. Susan seconded. The motion passed. Harold will do the initial research to see who should be invited to join.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod

Secretary