

**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2014, 8 AM**  
**Room 201**  
**Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

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

**Guests:** Zoe Tarrant, Kelle Ruden (Westport Library)

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

Catherine moved that the minutes of our September 9th, 2014, meeting be approved. Judy seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**What's Up?**

1. Harold commented on the book The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism by Professor Ed Baptist from Cornell University. This book and others are modifying the American narrative with regard to slavery where it is often professed that 'slavery was not so bad'. The characterization was that it was a familial system so people had to have been taken care of. The economy was fueled by cotton and slavery. Twelve Years a Slave helps this conversation as well. Also opinions that slavery would have died on its own accord are being challenged.
2. Kelle discussed how we can recommend books for display or for the Library collection – particularly in the Children's Library.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Programming**

1. Westport Country Playhouse – Intimate Apparel
  - a. Darryl Pinckney is coming with his publisher. He will discuss his book, Blackballed: The Black Vote and US Democracy, at the Barn at the Playhouse on Wednesday, October 8th. Then he'll stay to see the play.
  - b. Family Day is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Community Day is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. TEAM Westport co-sponsored a film on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Church. We had a good turn-out (50 people); also on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Library.
  - e. Sacred Heart University is working on some programming as well.
  - f. Harold will be appearing on *Our Lives* on Channel 12 to talk about *Intimate Apparel*.
  - g. Harold will speak to the Y's Women on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Church at 11:30AM.
2. Books featuring 'Kids of Color'

Our committee has been meeting, has made a great start, and is working toward setting a mission and strategy. The committee will meet again next Wednesday evening. This is an exciting moment to be working on this. There are more non-white kids being born now than white kids.

**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2014, 8 AM  
Room 201  
Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

3. Westport Library Update

Progress is being made by the Library with regard to identifying diverse children's books.

**Education**

Essay Contest: we are working on obtaining sponsorships. All other activities are on schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary