

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2015, 8 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

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

Guests: Zoe Tarrant; Kelle Ruden, Westport Library

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM.

Approval of minutes: Susan Ellis moved that the minutes of our December 2nd, 2014 meeting be approved with corrections. Brett seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

What's Up?

1. The Unitarian Church conducted a "Black Lives Matter" rally on December 13th at the beginning of the Post Road bridge. About 50 people participated including several of our members. We heard that students in New Canaan had conducted a "die-in" and walk-out earlier in December.
2. It is extremely important for people who are not of color to speak up about matters dealing with race.
3. The Book of Negroes on CBC – a miniseries on slavery – starts on January 7th.

OLD BUSINESS

Education:

Teen Diversity Essay Contest

The application is online now and can be filled out online; however, it can't be submitted online. Applicants will need to print and scan to submit their applications. Our judges are in place. We are still seeking sponsors. Our posters are ready to be put up around town and some were handed out.

Action: Harold should send Kelle the .pdf of the poster.

Programming:

1. "Westport Kids Need Diverse Books" is doing well. The current presentation has 30 slides (it takes 10 minutes to go through). We will be distributing it eventually by posting it online although it is a work in progress. Future plans may include determining venues at which to present. We have some ideas. This movement was partly launched by a New York Times article on lack of published books for children showing anyone of color and the national movement of We Need Diverse Books (see weneeddiversebooks.org).
2. The MLK Celebration mentioned earlier by the Interfaith Council is not going to happen. However, the Unitarian Church is doing something on January 18. Harold will be meeting with David Vita and Reverend Roberta Finkelstein tomorrow to work out the program. We are looking at the possibility of getting someone else in February to speak. The movie Selma is coming out soon. We can possibly go to see the movie together.
Action: Maggie will spearhead.
3. We still want to do something with Rev. Alison Patton re: "The New Jim Crow" and issues related to criminal justice.
4. Judy is putting together a program for African American history month at Meadow Ridge. She is thinking about doing 4 sessions in February (Then to Now) and will involve some of our members in that program – including film, music, and a panel discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 8AM on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in Room 201 of Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary