



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2015, 8:00 AM  
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

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

**Guests:** Ramin Ganeshram and Savitri Horrigan

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

**Minutes:** Catherine moved to approve the minutes from our meeting of April 7, 2015. Judy seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **What's Up?**

Baltimore exploded. It is important to separate out at least two of the issues that are operative in Baltimore (and in other areas and cities). Those issues involve 1) community relationships with policemen and 2) community conditions resulting in rage and pent up hopelessness. President Obama separated the two issues in his speech yesterday indicating "why" a city like Baltimore might explode.

It would be helpful to know what's going on here in Westport and Fairfield County with reference to police stops, etc. Anecdotally, we hear about "nuisance stops" at times. Statistics are available. Additionally, we would like to invite our Chief of Police to a meeting so that we can better understand the "philosophy" behind stopping. Also we would like to be able to relate better to what police are asked to deal with every day and to learn some more about police culture.

These items lead very well into our plans to discuss issues in general via community conversations thus accelerating our anticipated start date for such sessions.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Programming**

1. The Interfaith Council has proposed a partnership for an MLK Day 2016 Observance to be held on January 31, 2016, thereby launching ongoing activities including community conversations. Harold, Dolores, and Bernicestine attended the first meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss this proposal. A number of potential resources were identified and future meetings will be held regularly.
2. In pursuing our mission to hold regular community conversations (now accelerated),
  - a. Zoe will work on developing a list of contacts and identifying potential speakers.
  - b. Maggie will work on the structure.
  - c. We need a room to hold approximately 40 people that can be at different venues or at the same venue all the time.
  - d. It would be good to have a regular program in place discussing current events. The movie "Selma" is available and could lead to a discussion in light of what's currently in the news.
  - e. Savitri and Ramin can work on social media as a means of communicating the schedule for the series. Also social media can be used to extend the conversation itself to include those who may not be able to physically attend – potentially going beyond Westport.
  - f. We can each champion a topic and evaluate whether we should develop corresponding programs:
    - i. Steve and Brett will work on issues surrounding voting rights.
    - ii. Catherine and Judy are working on Project Implicit and Criminal Justice.
    - iii. "Westport Kids Need More Diverse Books" is already in progress (Zoe and Susan).
3. Danny Glover will appear tomorrow at 7 PM in Bridgeport.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 AM.

Our next meeting will be on June 2, 2015 at 8AM in Room 201 of the Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernicestine McLeod, Secretary