



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2016, 8:00 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Susan Ellis, Brett Aronow, Judy Hamer, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Zoe Tarrant

Guests: David Vita, Savitri Horrigan, Ramin Ganeshram

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

Approval of Minutes: Catherine moved to approve the minutes for our April 5, 2016 meeting with suggested amendments. Maggie seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting minutes will be posted.

NEW BUSINESS:

What's Up:

1. Three of us attended the Alvin Ailey II (sold-out) performance on May 1st at the Quick Center – a benefit for Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County. The student performers from Neighborhood Studios were also really good. The troupe from Alvin Ailey II performed new pieces as well as their always moving traditional pieces which never fail to stir the soul. Harold Levine has been extremely instrumental in bringing Alvin Ailey to urban centers (7 now across the country). The partnership here in Bridgeport has been quite successful.
2. We briefly discussed Larry Wilmore's appearance at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on April 30th. There is controversy surrounding the comments he made during his "roast" particularly with regard to the press.

OLD BUSINESS:

Programming

1. Essay Contest: Essay Contest: We have our three (3) winners! They will be presented at the Library on Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm. We are updating our press release. Publicity will include coverage by Dan Woog and Inklings. We also talked about the necessity to build up funds in order to sponsor future essay contests and to be able to attract good speakers.

Action: Susan Ellis will notify the winners.

2. Playhouse/Interfaith:

The Invisible Hand (by Ayad Akhtar) is the play being presented at the Westport Playhouse from July 19th till August 6th. It is a political thriller set in Pakistan. The Playhouse is identifying programming to include conversations and presentations to discuss issues this play may raise with regard to belief systems, financial practices, and cultural perceptions. Who and when are key determinants as always. Once good people are identified, the staff can follow up.

3. 'Westport Kids Need More Diverse Books'

We are looking at having something ready for the fall or winter. We are brainstorming about what format should be used as well as the approach and content. This will be tied in with our proposed



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conversation on “How do we talk with our children about race?” and should reach an audience of teachers and parents, in particular, within our community. However, this is still being thought out.

4. Follow-on Conversations:

Consider “Are you ready for a Female President?” in addition to “Policing” and “How do we talk with our children about race?”. We would like to invite key participants to meet with us while we are in the planning stages.

5. Project Implicit:

We need to discuss further and then try to determine what to do – whether to bring in someone from the outside or not.

6. Monthly discussions:

These are still on the table and will be launched in the near future – summer or fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38am.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 at 8am in Room201, Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary