

NIOT Subcommittee Meeting Summary
October 10, 2013
BG Council Chambers (2 – 4pm)

Attendance:

Mary Beth Zachary
Monica Moll
Jack Taylor
Jim Litwin
Arpan Yagnik
Sheila Brown

Juan Pimiento
Ana Brown
Lingxiao Ge
Casey Swick
Andrea Voogd
Tobias Spears

Dan Boyle
Susana Peña
Heather Sayler
Patricia Helyer
David Dupont
Ray Plaza

Abby Priehs
John Fawcett
Lisa Hanasono
Emily Monago
Krishna Han
Barbara Keller

Meeting call to Order – 2:00 pm

I. Welcome

Barbara Keller welcomed the group and explained her newly appointed role as Co-Chair, along with Vicky Kulicke. Vicky unable to make meeting due to a family emergency, and Ray Plaza would be serving in her place for this meeting.

John Fawcett extended a welcome on behalf of the Mayor and the City for coming to the BG Council Chambers, as well as being a part of the effort.

Those in attendance asked to introduce themselves

II. Recent Events and Response

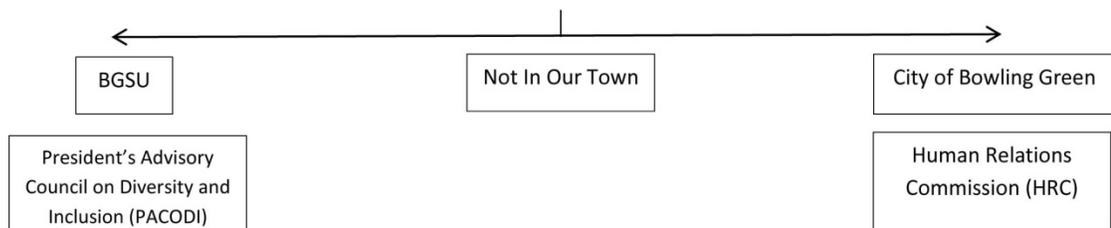
a. #Call to Action by BGSU Students

- i. Juan Pimiento provided an overview to the #Call to Action movement that arose this week as a response to the Racist Tweets and other matters.
- ii. Students organized a Silent protest that took place on Wednesday, October 9th.
- iii. Students participated in the Inclusion Group meeting with Vice President Jill Carr and Chief Diversity Officer Barbara Waddell on Wednesday night.
- iv. Students working on developing a specific list of actions that they would like to see taken. Juan shared examples of concerns with the Campus Tour Guides and Student Recruitment Team and what they can or cannot share about areas such as OMA and the LGBT Resource center
- v. Students encouraged to reach out to the faculty and staff allies, who are willing to support the effort. Some initial concerns that the message on the #Call to Action was only geared for students.

b. Offensive T-Shirts

- i. Offensive T-Shirts poking fun at Chinese Culture displayed in window of Best of BG Bookstore, located across from the new Falcon Health Center.
- ii. Vicky Kulicke spoke with owner via phone to discuss the situation and owner agreed to take the matter under advisement
- iii. Chamber of Commerce was approached, and since the business is not a paying member, not much that they can do.

- iv. Group explored other ways to engage the business to indicate that such displays are not acceptable within the community
- c. Update on the Racist Tweets
- i. Monica Moll, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police for BGSU provided an update into the tweets.
 - ii. Explained the challenge with tweets with first amendment considerations and also if a student, possible student conduct policy violations
 - iii. By looking at the followers, BGSU police were able to find the individual that was behind the tweets.
 - 1. Individual is an 18 year old male, not a student at BGSU, not a member of the BG community
 - 2. Individual has High School friends that now go to BGSU
 - 3. Turned out to be a joke and used the PNC marketing images to create the false account
 - 4. Police were in conversations with the Parents
 - 5. Friends of the individual upset and concerned about the association and some participated in the Silent Protest
 - 6. BGSU police working on sending a campus message to the community about the ignorant acts
- d. Need for a Response Protocol
- i. Desire to create a protocol and policy for NIOT to respond more proactively to such situations as they occur.
 - ii. Ensure that whatever protocol is developed that it provides a clear understanding of the jurisdictional areas – i.e. if event happens on campus, off-campus, police involvement
 - iii. Ensure that the established protocol is in line with other protocols being revamped by students through the Inclusion group
 - iv. Agreement on the need for this and suggestions that we make sure of the following:
 - 1. Aware of issues of privacy so that we are not seen as targeting specific individuals
 - 2. Understanding the importance of language
 - 3. Need to be specific and clear
 - v. A few members in attendance agreed to work on the drafting of a process
- e. Related to Response Protocol
- i. Reminder of the jurisdictional issues relating to NIOT
 - 1. Based on some of the comments, the following diagram shows the relationship of NIOT, and how the group needs to understand the dynamic and working relationships.



- ii. Consider developing a NIOT Action Alert system that sends message to NIOT members via the list serv about situations as they happen
 - 1. Goal to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of facts

- iii. Reminder of the connection to the BG Human Relations Commission (HRC) and their role in helping to bring the gaps
- f. Resources
 - i. Reminder about the different agencies that are available within the City to help with Community concerns.
 - ii. Unfortunately, no one central listing of such services and the city agreed to put a list together to help educate the students about these community resources.
- g. Community Perceptions
 - i. Question raised about the actual community perceptions based on responses in the Sentinel-Tribune, etc.
 - ii. Several shared that community is fairly supportive of efforts and in a much better place that decades ago
 - iii. Reminder that there are perceptions on both sides: BGSU members have perceptions of BG, and BG members have perceptions of BGSU

III. Events, Programs and Marketing

- a. BGSU International Education Week
 - i. Andrea Voogd spoke to the group about getting the word out about the upcoming International Education week scheduled from November 12 – 20th.
 - ii. Desire for more community participation and programs in the effort.
 - iii. Andrea can be contacted at avoogd@bgsu.edu and at 419.372.4761.
- b. Student-led Not in Our Town Week
 - i. The Collective, a student roundtable group at BGSU is putting together a student-led “Not In Our Town Week”. It is scheduled to take place during the week of November 18th.
 - ii. Ensure that the NIOT Student working group is connected to this effort
- c. Not in Our Town Community Event
 - i. Desire to host a NIOT Community event
 - ii. Looking at possible locations
- d. “A Conversation About Race in America”
 - i. Community event organized by Jack Taylor and Jim Litwin
 - ii. Series of 4 meetings with a small group of community members engaging in a dialogue/discussion about Race
 - iii. Deadline is October 16th, and the first sessions start on October 22nd
 - iv. Interest expressed in potentially expanding this opportunity after the first round
 - v. Interest in continuing efforts with other upcoming events such as the State of the State Conference scheduled for March 20, 2014 on the BGSU campus.
- e. Participation in the Annual Holiday Parade
 - i. Parade scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd from 10 – 12 Noon. Lining up starts at 9am.
 - ii. NIOT has signed up and Barbara Keller has made arrangements for Golf Carts and an anonymous donor has paid the \$15 registration fee to enter the parade. NIOT will need volunteers to help walk/ride in the parade.

IV. Moving Forward

- a. NIOT Structure and Steering Committee
 - i. Acknowledgement that the lack of a formal structure has hindered the ability for NIOT to advance further.
 - ii. Concern about adding more layers but agreed that a Steering committee would help to provide more structural guidance
 - iii. Agreed to form a formal Steering Committee that would consist of the Two co-Chairs and the heads of the working groups
 - iv. This group would help provide direction and guidance as well as ensure that the working groups are continuing with their efforts
- b. Possible SWOT Analysis
 - i. Jack Taylor, a community member, expressed a desire to do a formal SWOT analysis using the data/suggestions collected from the April Forum's.
- c. Resources and Collaboration
 - i. It was acknowledged that one of the challenges has been the lack of monetary resources and this is being explored. Also acknowledged that we don't need money to make things happen.
 - ii. Need to finalize the logistics of how we will manage funds, solicit funds, etc.
 - iii. Members in attendance shared that they would be willing to collaborate on programs and activities, but such collaboration would require an equal partnership in terms of funding, for example.
- d. Community Engagements
 - i. Barbara provided an update as to the different meetings and conversations that she and Vicky have had with different organizations in the area. Among these have included the United Way, Friends of the Library, BGSU Retirees Association.
 - ii. Update that the Human Relations Commission has fully endorsed the NIOT effort and has purchased a banner

V. Working Group Updates

- a. Developing Momentum – Community
 - i. Arpan shared that many efforts taking place such as agreement by the City Police and Campus Police to display magnets featuring NIOT.
 - ii. WBGUTV is featuring another NIOT presentation that will be available on their website
 - iii. Continuing to build community support
- b. Developing Momentum - Students
 - i. Booths at Campus Fest and Banners are different events
 - ii. Working on increasing the visibility and ensuring that it is more than just a hashtag on twitter
 - iii. Strengthening lines of communication amongst the student groups
- c. Education, Programming and Events
 - i. Tobias shared the details of the "I Stand" Advocacy training developed by the Center for Leadership and the Office of Multicultural Affairs
 - ii. Presentation has been done at the Student Leader Retreat, and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS).
 - iii. At the conclusion of the presentation, students get to "Take a Stand" by taking a photo and furthering their commitment to NIOT

- iv. Exploring options for additional programs
 - v. Allowing programs that have a diversity focus to use the NIOT logo
- d. Marketing and Advocacy
- i. Ray shared that the group developed an informational brochure that was unveiled during the Black Swamp festival and distributed by the BG Police. The brochure goes hand-in-hand with the Pledge Cards
 - ii. Working on the design of the Car magnet for the police, and magnet would be available for others as well (details still being worked out)
 - iii. Continuing work on the website and looking at ways to develop an ongoing calendar of events
 - iv. New email: niot@bgsu.edu (more details to come), but could be used to gather programs as well as other items
 - 1. Idea of a standard NIOT update in the Campus Updates and other community venues
 - 2. Template for collecting of program information
 - v. Possible exploration of adding additional tag lines to the Not in Our Town logo – item raised by one of the members in attendance
 - vi. Desire for a written summary of what has happened since April on the website (chronology)

VI. Good of the Order

Following were announcements shared during the Good of the Order:

- Reminder of the WBGTVU Showing
- #Call to Action meeting on Sunday at 10pm in the Bowen Thompson Student Union – 2nd floor
- Reminder that a lot of work has been done in a short amount of time and we need to ensure that we are inclusive of all roles
- Reminder about opportunity to participate in International Education week
- Reminder to support students by encouraging them to take breaks and be mindful of academics – there are full-time folks that can help do this work
- The Department of Ethnic Studies and the School for Cultural and Critical Studies is hosting Diane Nash, Civil Rights Pioneer on October 24th at 6pm in the Ballroom in the Bowen Thompson Student Union. Please help spread the word (Posters were distributed)
- Lisa H. shared that she continues to work with her students on NIOT videos and will have more detail toward the end of the semester. Also working with a service learning project.
- Reminder about the registrations for the “Conversation About Race in America”

The next meeting of the NIOT Subcommittee will be on Friday, November 22nd from 2 – 4pm in the BG Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned.

Summary prepared by Ray Plaza