

Not In Our Town Bowling Green
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Room 310, Bowling Green State University

Present: Emily Dunipace (Community Co-Chair), Melissa Frizado (People First and AKTion Club), Bill Herald (City Council), Jennifer McCary (BGSU), and Heather Saylor (Community).

Action items bolded

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Emily Dunipace called the meeting to order and asked for each person in attendance to introduce themselves.
 - b. Emily stated NIOT is in need of a new secretary if anyone is able to help.
 - c. Emily asked for approval of the meeting minutes for the January 9, 2020 meeting, which were approved.

- II. Discussion
 - a. Open Dialogue on Current Landscape - national/regional/state/local/campus
 - Bill said at the national level there is certainly a lot of activity.
 - Jennifer said there have been two incidents reported on-campus of concern. She said there was an international student at Kroger in-line, who heard a woman yelling hateful comments. The nature of the comments were clearly about her and the student was very upset, but ignored her. The concern was reported by a professor who she confided in, so Jennifer did not have many details since it was just reported. However, it was clearly an incident that needs to be followed-up with, which could include a call or visit to Kroger management to make sure they are aware of what happened. She is not sure the student will want to do anything more, but Jennifer said at minimum the cashier or employee could of calmly addressed the comments. Bill also offered to work with Jennifer on this issue, as this is not the type of unwelcoming behavior to be tolerated in the community. Jennifer said a second incident involved a female student in a science lab that experienced hurtful comments from a male about “girls not being as smart as boys and they should not be in science labs.” The student was very uncomfortable and wants to drop the class. Jennifer said this illustrates the impact of implicit bias. Emily also asked about the roommate situation she reported about last month and Jennifer said she is still working with the roommate who was saying inappropriate things, but Jennifer said the impacted student no longer wished to engage in the conversation or accept an apology.

- III. Reports
 - a. Steering Committee – Emily said there is no report (items are reported later under Old and New Business).
 - b. Outreach/Programming Working Group – Gary was absent. No report.
 - c. Finances/Inventory – Dawn was absent. No report.

d. Partners (HRC, BGSU Police, etc) – No partners were present. No report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Interfaith Breakfast – Emily said the date of the 6th Annual Interfaith Breakfast is Tuesday, April 21, 2020 and it will be located at the new Veterans Building at City Park. Matt Every is the Chair of the planning group. The theme this year will be Peace: Love Within Division. We will again include involvement from students from the BG City Schools for art and music and hopefully also students from BGSU. The format for the program is not yet finalized but it is shaping up to be to show a clip from a compelling video and to have two local clergy provide their responses. Funding is available for food (South Side 6 generously donated \$500) and the menu is being selected. In the past, there has been transportation for students, but unfortunately there are not any professors involved to help promote. Jennifer said her office paid for the shuttle bus last year and asked for the address of the new building, which Heather will email to her.
- b. NIOT 7th Anniversary Event – NIOT's 7th anniversary is officially on April 17. Emily said most of the effort will be on the Interfaith Breakfast at this time, but said there should be celebration of NIOT's existence. She is thinking the group should do the same as last year to keep the celebration simple, including cake, ice cream, and inviting the Mayor and BGSU President to speak.

V. New Business

- a. 2020 Calendar Draft & New Column – Emily handed out a draft calendar of activities for the upcoming year. She said it is not complete and the initial start of something to use. For example, it lists monthly meetings, the Interfaith Breakfast, and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. The calendar also lists the dates for the beginning of the new column that NIOT will write called "Words Matter". Emily said the Mayor and BGSU President will co-author the first column this month as the launch to the column. She said in March for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Brent Baer (Superintendent of Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities) and Mike Stanford (President of People First of Wood County) will author the column. In April, Gary Saunders will write an article related to NIOT's focus on interfaith work and the Interfaith Breakfast. Heather will likely right about acts of kindness in May, but all months are open to suggestions. Emily said NIOT is committed to be more influential, along with what seems to be the common focus on civility. Heather also suggested that other organizations of related missions could contribute, such as We Are One team, the Human Relations Commission, etc.
- b. Conference Call with Susquehanna, PA – Emily and Heather participated in a conference call last month with officials from Susquehanna University and others from the greater Susquehanna region regarding the activities of NIOT, history, etc. The national NIOT organization referred them to our local group for assistance. It was a good call and Emily said we are happy to assist. They had a great follow-up question asking about NIOT's impact and if there are any measured outcomes. Emily said it was discussed at the Steering Committee meeting of this challenge, since it is subjective and not something that can be measured easily. She said we could look at Facebook followers and the email listserv for numbers as one thing (around 800 to 900). Jennifer suggested a survey of the campus and community or surveys after each NIOT event. Emily said the

Interfaith Breakfast may be the perfect event to start a survey. Bill said he has written surveys for a living and is happy to help. He did say surveys are easily biased by how they are written and who fills them out.

VI. Good of the Order/Announcements

- a. Emily and Melissa shared several events, including handouts, for March for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. She specifically highlighted a CommUNITY Conversation event called “Lead with Inclusion”, which is being co-sponsored by NIOT. It is Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Simpson Garden Park, 1291 Conneaut Avenue. Registration is required at tinyurl.com/ddawarenessmonth2020 by Tuesday, March 24 to reserve a meal. Emily will email a copy of the flyer to Heather, so it can be shared.
- b. Jennifer said keynote speaker, Melissa Harris-Perry (television host, political commentator and professor), will be opening for the MLK tribute month on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Beyond the Dream calendar. This event is free. She said the Black Issues Conference is February 27 and there is cost for that. She said Bobby Seale (political activist and founding organizer of the Black Panther Party) will be the keynote speaker at the Black Issues Conference. She said Blake Leeper (Paralympic athlete and motivational speaker) will be speaking on March 31 at 7:00 p.m. She will email the calendar to Heather, so it can be shared. Jennifer also said the Office of Belonging and Diversity is sponsoring a new award – The Champion of Diversity – and nominations are needed. More information is on the webpage. She said the award can be for individuals or organizations.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. **Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 3:00pm at the City of Bowling Green Municipal Building, 304 North Church Street, Council Chamber.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Heather Sayler 2/12/2020