



NIOT BG Minutes – February 4, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions—Emily

- Importance of connection and communication. (Understanding the need for some to keep cameras off to maintain privacy.) Please introduce self before speaking.
- Minutes Approval—January meeting (Gary Saunders so moved, Dawn Shinew seconded)

II. Discussion- all—led by Emily

- Open Dialogue Current Landscape – national/regional/state/local/campus
- Ana—Black History is American history
- Dawn—Ana, Jennifer, Emily HRC MLK Jr. Tribute shoutout. Jennifer’s keynote was compelling and should be revisited. Gary asked for the link (provided in the chat). Dawn downplayed her part as well

III. Reports

- Steering Committee, Outreach/Programming, Finances/Inventory and use
- Community Partners—HRC, B.R.A.V.E., BGPD, Welcome BG, USG, BGSU Police, BGSU Athletic Dept., WAIT, BGSU Hillel, La Conexion
- Adam Skaff—JAG Grant, City council paying the rest—hopefully by 3rd quarter, all officers will have body cams. (Expensive, especially the recurring costs—storage, upkeep, video storage). Will be protection for everyone; officers are all excited for the opportunity to provide a clearer picture. As of February 1st posting test to begin hiring process. Would love to recruit a more diverse class. Please spread the word.
- Mike Campbell—partnering with Big Brothers, Big Sisters: “Bigs with Badges” (piloting soon). Working on the in-service trainings for the rest of the year. Building modules now.
- Taylor Jefferson BGSU Athletics (via Heather Saylor)—Unity games for basketball went well. Handed out 10 t-shirts and window clings. Special black uniforms with inspirational message. Other teams are now interested as well. ESPN covered.

IV. On-Going (Old) Business

- “Imagining a Safe and Inclusive BG”
 1. Pyramid of Hate—Published by the Anti-Defamation League
<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/pyramid-of-hate.pdf>

Gary and Tom Klein discussed their trips to Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Israel) and the impacts on them as well as the dangers of miseducation and

conspiracy theories. Tom compared it to Maslow. Gary wondered about what it takes for a community to work through a parallel pyramid to get to the apex of a beloved community. NIOT Princeton created a continuum along those lines.

2. How White Supremacy shows up—graphic developed by Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (2005) and adapted by Ellen Tuzzolo (2016):

<https://uucsj.org/study-guide/legacies-of-systemic-injustice/white-supremacy>

Overt vs Covert White Supremacy pyramid. Emily discussed Eurocentric curriculum. Bea Guenther talked about the seminar she and her sister are developing a seminar on race in Europe. OSU migration and mobility— both working on shattering the myth of cultural pockets, the world dividing neatly into two halves. Tom talked about the discrimination pushed by John Randall (a pastor) in his letters to the editor. Dawn talked about the visibility of some things that are socially unacceptable and the confluence of the triangles. Tom talked about Gallup and Pew polls regarding racial attitudes. Dawn talked about the resurgence of extremist groups. Emily and Ana talked about how we view White Supremacy vs what it actually is. Bea talked about trying to get a handle on the movements. Recommended reading the Kathryn Stewart book, “The Power-Worshippers”, and the groups that use Christian discourse for political gain, and the co-opting of the Christian religion by extremists. Tom talked about how organizing is occurring via the internet. Ana talked about the Richard Branson article. Adam challenged (as devil’s advocate) the pyramid—for example, where MAGA is near the top and how some folks don’t mean for it to be negative. Ana explained how different perspectives define and redefine meanings, and how affected groups have to do the challenge, because those outside cannot. Karla also talked about the power of words and how we need to use more carefully. Tom made the connection between CoVid-19 and MAGA. Bea talked about what MAGA is used to justify and how it undercuts actual US principles (she has German citizenship) and the tie to German history. Gary talked about the importance of intent vs impact. Dawn commended Adam for his willingness to push and create good conversations. Dawn talked about the concerns about extremism locally, how young people are recruited and her concerns about that, and how Adam and Mike might be able to help guide the group to expertise. Mike commented in about the great dialogue and talked about the resources and expertise locally.

- Annual Interfaith Breakfast—POSTPONED until a later date.
- Planning Focus Areas and Creating the NIOT Calendar for 2021

V. New Business

- Community Conversations Topics—
 1. Civil Discourse
 2. Extremism
 3. Implicit Bias

VI. Good of the Order (announcements, upcoming involvement opportunities, etc.)

Beyond The Dream calendar

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 4, 2021; 3:00-4:30 pm Virtual Location

Meeting Attendance:

Bea Guenther	Jennifer McCary
Karla Davis-McGowan	Heather Saylor
Tom Klein	Gary Saunders
Douglas Simpson	Emily Dunipace
Carol Kinsey	Dawn Shinew
Jan McLaughlin	Ana Brown
Mike Campbell	Bill Herald
Adam Skaff	

Resources from the Meeting chat

Link to the City of Bowling Green Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wIhQTS1GwE>

NPR Morning Edition story on domestic extremist groups:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/02/963115515/examining-domestic-extremist-threats-to-americans-and-u-s-government>

Text referenced in conversation:

The Power-Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism by Katherine Stewart

Richard Branson blog on the source for the attack on the Capitol

<https://virgin.com/branson-family/richard-branson-blog/thoughts-on-america>

Beyond The Dream Calendar of Events

<https://events.bgsu.edu/beyond-the-dream>

Conversations from the Meeting chat

On the White Supremacy pyramid:

"I am surprised symbols, such as the confederate flag are not shown in the pyramid, etc."

"I agree that symbols should be included"

"Speaking of the confederate flag, our Words Matter column should be mentioned. it received quite the list of social media comments."

"Confederate flags appear on the left, just below the parallel line representing Covert and Overt."

"One of my favorite lines from Amanda Gorman's inauguration poem is that 'what just is isn't always just-ice'."