



Not In Our Town Bowling Green
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Present: Mojabeng Kamala (Welcome BG), Ana Brown (BGSU, Office of Multicultural Affairs), Mike Campbell (BGSU, Police), Chris Doerner (People First), Emily Dunipace (Co-Chair, Community), Lindsay Durham (BRAVE), Bill Herald (City of Bowling Green, City Council), Taylor Jefferson (BGSU Athletics), Anthony King (BRAVE, City Human Relations Commission), Bruce Jeffers (Community), Tayler Jefferson (BGSU, Athletics), Carol Kinsey (Community), Tom Klein (Community), Roger LaPointe (Sentinel-Tribune), Neocles Leontis (City of Bowling Green, City Council), Karla Davis-McGowan (Community, Toledo Human Trafficking Coalition, Lucas County Children Services), Jan Larson-McLaughlin (BG Independent Media), Jennifer McCary (BGSU, Diversity and Inclusion), David and Margaret Montague (Community), Winifred Rex, Gary Saunders (Community, Steering Committee), Heather Saylor (NIOT Secretary and Community), Dawn Shinew (Co-Chair, BGSU), Adam Skaff (BG Police), Jason Whitfield (BGSU, faculty), Marilyn Yakumithis (BGSU Hillel), and John Zanfardino (City Council). Other people were listed via WebEx that did not introduce themselves.

Action items bolded

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Emily called the meeting to order and asked for each person in attendance to introduce themselves.
 - b. Emily said she did not have the minutes for August readily available, so those will be reviewed next month.

- II. Discussion
 - a. Open Dialogue on Current Landscape - national/regional/state/local/campus
 - Jen McCary discussed the status of the BGSU employee who made racist comments on social media. She said he is no longer an employee of BGSU. She is thankful for the faculty that put together the peaceful protest and that there is great hard to be repaired. Work with continue with the Grounds team that the employee worked with. The campus cannot be lax in efforts to make the campus more inclusive and there is much to learn from these situations. She said BGUS will not tolerate this behavior, but legally there is a due process that must be followed.
 - Bruce Jeffers said he has been campaigning all over Wood County and he wanted to note that he has sawn many people with signs up expressing their support of Black Lives Matter and other signs of allyship. He said he has been encouraged to see this. Tom Klein asked if he had contact with many people verbally, since he feels many people around the area are still uncomfortable with NIOT's stance and there is resistance. Bruce said that is true but there is encouragement within the

community of people wanting to create a safe and welcoming community for everyone.

III. Reports

- a. Steering Committee – Emily said the committee still needs to review the NIOT structure as listed in the bylaws, including the working groups.
- b. Outreach/Programming Working Group –No report.
- c. Finances/Inventory – Dawn Shinew said she does not have an exact balance to report, but she said the account balance is still healthy last she looked.
- d. Partners –

Human Relations Commission – Emily said they are focusing on sponsoring the Community Reads project, where the community is encouraged to read a book and there will be virtual discussion. This will be with assistance from BGSU with more information to come.

City of BG Police – Adam Skaff (sergeant at BGPD) said as the liaison to communities of color he is focusing on the the BGPD’s mission statement of serving the community. He has listened to several groups on and off-campus and will continue to do so, formulating recommendations from there.

Welcome BG – Mojabeng Kamala (Director) said she has been focusing a lot of time on working with international students and has found the many challenges they have experienced recently due to COVID-19. She said many of these students had to find a place to live, experienced VISA issues, have no longer been able to work on-campus, have had to deplete their savings and have had issues with food insecurity. She said out of these conversations she has found a way to bridge a gap with food insecurity. She has formulated a list of staple foods these students are most familiar with and that they can cook with. She said she will send the list to Emily and Dawn, after asking what donations are needed and if money could be donated. She thanked First United Methodist Church and the BG Christian Pantry for helping to partner with her for providing food.

(this list was received after the meeting and added to the minutes for the sake of distribution)

- oatmeal
- rice
- flour
- sugar
- corn meal (white: BRANDS-Bunge or Indian Head)
- potatoes
- sweet potatoes
- vegetables (cabbage, okra, collard greens, carrots, green peppers, onions, spinach, kale, green onions, etc)
- fruits (fresh)
- gari
- semo
- plantain

- fufu powder
- nuts
- pinto beans
- lentils
- soybeans
- sorghum
- canned tomato paste
- cooking oil
- bread
- milk
- eggs
- buttermilk
- meat (no pork)

Moja also said there is a Welcome week initiative that will be all over the country from the 12th through 20th. She said there will be a focus on what's the definition of "home", which often is feeling welcome, safe, and heard. She requested people like their Facebook page for more information.

BGSU Police – Mike Campbell (Chief) said it has been a new world for them this year, but yet the same when it comes to starting a new year with students. He said they have needed to be creative and inventive trying to connect with students and student organizations. With 3,000 new students on average each year and COVID-19 protocols this is difficult. Gary Saunders asked about the enforcement of health guidelines and Mike said they are playing to roll of educator, not meaning to be punitive. They work on correcting behavior when they see it, which also includes working with the Dean of Students as needed.

BGSU Athletics – Taylor Jefferson said Athletics was proud to see several student athletes and coaches from all sports attend the recent protest on-campus. He said they have been working hard to help foster relationships between students and the police. Taylor said he recently did a ride along with Adam during a night shift and it was very eye opening to him to see what the police deal with. He encourages others to do so if they are able to.

BGSU Hillel – Marilyn Yakumithis said she is the Jewish Student Life Coordinator for BGSU Hillel. She said she was asked to attend the meeting without much notice, so she has no prepared report to share.

People First – Emily said Chris Doerner attended the meeting as a member of People First, but since he stepped out for a short time, she would talk about their efforts to raise awareness about voting and the 2020 Census. She said marginalized person are misrepresented, so it is critical everyone participates in the Census. They will be hosting a forum about these topics next Thursday.

IV. On-Going (Old) Business

- a. "Imagining a Safe and Inclusive BG" Reflection – Becoming Anti-Racist – Emily noted she NIOT changed the agenda to read "on-going" business instead of "old" business because racism is not old business. It is a topic we need to continue working on. She wanted to

share information she found during a recent educational training she attended. A doctor highlighted a tool he developed from his focus on healthcare to included design in architecture and collaborating across a breadth of academic and private sectors as critical to health. He believes that ever person – regardless of age, gender, race or geography – has the right to safe, high quality healthcare. She said the chart can be found at SurgeryRedesign.com and discussed that each of us can engage in meaningful reflection looking at the categories of this chart and where each of us fall.



She said it is critical to look through the lens of people of color, for example, and always be listening. She said listening and doing something to make BG a welcoming community will lead to change. She asked if anyone had any initial reactions. Ana said she encouraged all of us to view this in growth zones, with the greatest growth coming from spaces of discomfort. Karla said this may be helpful during the conversations she helps to host at church. She said there is a white man who attends every week that says the country has gotten much better and denies the existence of racism. She struggles with how to handle his responses and lack of understanding of her experiences as a person of color. The group is reading “Be the Bridge” by Latasha Morrison, which she recommends everyone read. She said she has learned a lot and it has opened her mind. Ana said we are all in different spaces and we all know that person. Each of us are on a growth journey and we can fall in different areas of the scale being in different places or with different people. Emily add that these conversations are so critical for growth and she is happy NIOT can help to provide these safe spaces.

V. New Business

- a. Community Conversation Series - Emily said the next session will be Free Speech vs. Hate Speech on Monday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The panel members will be Dr. Patrick Pauken, Judge Matthew Reger, National NIOT Chair Patrice O’Neill and Ana Brown will be the Moderator. There may be additional panel members. Panel members will share information about education law (K-12 and higher education) and First Amendment rights. Emily said any ideas for future sessions would be appreciated.
- b. Upcoming Community Events for October –
 - Emily introduced the ideas of *Racing Against Racism*, which would be a race or walk. This idea came from a NIOT chapter in Princeton that is very active and has many ideas on their website. She said this would be an outdoor event to raise awareness regarding racism. There are still concerns with COVID-19, but she has obtained regulations from the Health Department which would limit the race to 150 people. There was a also a suggestion for there to be a virtual option, since many thought the cap of 150 could be reached quickly since this could appeal to different people.
 - Community Reads* – Emily said the book will be “So You Want To Talk About Race”, which as she mentioned before will be a collaborative effort with the HRC with more details to come soon.
 - Dawn said the monthly column NIOT has discussed before will being soon called “*Words Matter*”. She anticipates both the Mayor and BGSU President will be approving the first column soon, since they are the authors introducing the new column. Both the BG Independent Media and Sentinel-Tribune have agreed to run the column.

VI. Good of the Order/Announcements

- a. Emily asked Anthony King to talk about BRAVE (Black Rights, Activism, Visibility, Equity) since he could not be present for the part of agenda when partners give a report due to his class schedule. Anthony talked about the initiatives they have done so far and the planning for the future. He said they are working on their nonprofit status, along with

attending Council meetings (recent Resolution was passed), the peaceful protest they planned at the end of May, and they worked to get the Force Science Institute Training canceled that the BGD were scheduled to sponsor. He also said they are working with the League of Women Voters to help register voters and encouraged people to watch their Facebook page for future event announcements.

- b. Ana said a Day of Dialogue will be held virtually on September 18 starting at 9:00 a.m. She said people can tune in at any time and she highlighted the keynote speaker at 12:00 p.m., which would be live with a question and answer time.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. **Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 3:00pm via WebEx.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Heather Saylor 10/1/2020