NIOT Meeting Summary
September 18, 2014
BG City Council Chambers

Attendance:
Barbara Keller  Ana Brown  Taneisha Scott  Marcy St. John
Monica Moll  Patty Helyer  Vicky Kulicke  Tobias Spears
Susana Peña  Cynthia Roberts  Ray Plaza  Gary Saunders
Heather Sayler  Mary Beth Zachary

I. Welcome and Introductions
   a. Cookies provided by Gary

II. Chair Updates
   a. BGSU Co-Chair: (Ray)
      i. NIOT recognized with award from the Department of Higher Education and Student Affairs at BGSU. Vicky accepted on behalf of NIOT and was recognized for her efforts.
      ii. Weekly Digest going out on Fridays
      iii. List-Serv
      iv. Other updates later in agenda
   b. BG Co-Chair: (Gary)
      i. Continuing to build networks

III. Working Group Updates
   a. Outreach Initiatives (Leslie, Vicky, Heather)
      i. NIOT responses to efforts
      ii. Leslie working with students
   b. Education and Programming (Tobias/Lynn/Gary)
      i. iStand Advocacy program – schedule of dates for the rest of the semester
         1. September 30th, October 30th, November 20th
         2. On campus/ option to do off-campus
      ii. SafeZone dates can be found at www.bgsu/lgbt
      iii. NCBI dates can be found at www.bgsu/oma - NCBI tab on front
      iv. Rev. Kerr and Gary exploring options for a Community Interfaith event (Christians, Jewish, Muslim) – significant need for this
         1. Religious discrimination is flying under the radar – example of Muslim students being prejudiced
         2. Looking at bringing together like-minded clergy
v. Another focus area is to engage the K-12 schools
   1. Perhaps a speaker system in which college students go into classrooms
   2. Potential to train students – explore means of compensation (look at existing programs)
   3. Concern that we don’t tap the same students and overburden then
   4. Ensure speakers for all educational levels
   5. Example of book used at Wood Lane that is geared toward students

vi. Marketing and Public Relations (interim – Ray):
   1. Still looking for individuals interested in providing leadership for this area
   2. Efforts continue with additional designs of posters being developed

IV. Old Business
   a. Campus Fest
      i. Special thank you to everyone that covered the table. A lot of positive energy and excitement. Students bringing fellow students to the table.
      ii. Over 500 buttons given out
      iii. Representatives from the university and city helped to cover the table
   b. Ad Hoc Committee – Wooster Street
      i. Dan unable to make meeting but looking at reconvening the group for debriefing and next steps.
   c. Book Club
      i. Jim Litwin’s effort started on September 9th. 14 individuals are participating. Potential for others to join but need to contact Jim if space is available. (Ray and Vicky are also part of the Book Club)

V. New Business
   a. Volunteer sign-up for Homecoming Parade
      i. Parade scheduled for Friday, October 3rd
      ii. Volunteers to be ready by 3:30/4:00, as parade starts at 4:30
      iii. Need volunteers to walk in Parade and carry banners
      iv. Potential that other vehicles in the parade can display the banners
   b. News from the City of BG Human Relations Commission
      i. Working on series of programs.
         1. October 16th – Showing of “White Like Me” by Tim Wise at the Wood County Library
         2. Preparing for annual MLK Celebration and the awarding of the Drum Major of Peace award
         3. Also present three Honor Rolls throughout the year – November Honor roll recognizes La Conexion de Wood County
         4. Planning for Holiday parade and walking with NIOT
   c. Broadening our affirmation of diversity (Heather)
      i. Making connections with community resources to highlight other issues of diversity impacting the community.
      ii. Heather reported a contact with representative of mental health and addiction services agency, which spurred her thinking about these areas and NIOT.
Reminder that as we look at these areas we need to think about where we can be intentional with how we resolve these issues. Can we actually do things?

Nature of intersecting identities

Less highlighted topics include mental illness, poverty, suicide

Continue to have conversations

VI. Discussion: Community/Campus Pulse – what are we seeing?

a. The bulk of the discussion centered around the traveling preachers on the BGSU campus and the impact of this

b. Students being impacted by the abusive language

c. Clarification of the nature of the speak out zones versus freedom of speech zones. The entire campus is a freedom of speech zone but certain areas designated as speak out zones to confine noise away from classrooms

i. Desire to better mark the speak out zones with policies and clarification

d. There needs to be a response – can’t really ignore this

e. Care Team spoke about this issue after email from graduate student

f. Chief Moll spoke about the nuances of freedom of speech, and only way that they can interfere is if the speech becomes fighting words and then the speakers could be arrested for disorderly conduct

g. Issue also impacting other campuses – at Kent State, issued a hashtag kentstate_protest as a way to alert the community.

h. Group discussed ways that students could respond – wear NIOT shorts, have fliers, banners, etc.

i. Ray and Gary agreed to work on drafting a statement so that it could be shared by Friday.

j. Also explore a type of hashtag as well – need to be careful how it can be used

k. Also the possibility of a panel focusing on freedom of speech – might cater to different stakeholders on campus

l. The issue of these preachers is also similar to the concerns about the Wooster Street signs and the freedom of speech considerations

VII. Good of the Order

a. Anna – Reminder of the efforts that Residence Life undertook during opening with the Town Hall meeting, Banners in all of the halls, during the Family Weekend and Homecoming tents

b. Heather – During the Black Swamp Festival, NIOT had a pamphlet at the information tent.

c. Patty – Counseling Center open house on September 19th. Starting a diversity committee to look at the needs of the different ethnic groups. Also looking at needs of International students

d. Ray – recognition of Barb Keller’s role as the BG Community co-chair last year

e. Gary – enjoy the cookies and reminder that the next meeting is on October 16th from 2 - 4 on the BGSU campus.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2014 Room 308, Bowen-Thompson Student Union