NIOT Meeting Summary
November 13, 2014
BG City Council Chambers
(Administrative Services Building)

Attendance:
Marcy St. John  Cyndie Roberts  Barbara Keller  Tanesha Scott
Abby Priehs    Lynn Kerr      Gary Saunders  Ray Plaza
Kit Hughes     Yolanda Flores Heather Sayler  Mary Beth Zachary
Danielle Galbraith  Roberto Elizondo

Special Guest: Mayor Dick Edwards

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Chair Updates
   a. BG Co-Chair: (Gary)
      i. Building networks – gaining more traction
      ii. Meeting with the Superintendent of Schools (with Heather, Vicky & Ray)

   b. BGSU Co-Chair: (Ray)
      i. Special thanks to Lisa Hanasono, as her grant has helped to fund additional buttons and banners

III. Working Group Updates
   a. Outreach Initiatives (Leslie, Vicky, Heather)
      i. Heather:
         1. Coordinating a meeting with Superintendent Ann McVey and Todd Kramer. Meeting was positive and looking at the following potential possibilities:
            a. NIOT banners for each school
            b. Collaboration with LGBT club at the High School
            c. Teacher Training/Workshop opportunities
            d. Incorporation of Not In Our Schools (NIOS)

         2. Heather introduced Danielle Galbraith from Wood Lane. Danielle serves as a Representative for the Development Disabilities Board. She spoke about the services provided and the needs of the community. She highlighted the stigma and discrimination faced by individuals with disabilities, and the comparisons between the communities – BG is a
safe space, others are different. Concerns with employers not hiring individuals.

b. *Education and Programming* (Tobias/Lynn/Gary)
   i. Rev. Kerr indicated that she has a group of volunteers that would be interested in helping out with projects and efforts
   ii. Working with Gary on the development of the Interfaith Breakfast

**Addendum to Agenda: National NIOT Fundraising effort**

At this point of the meeting, we were joined via phone by Cassandra Belson and Dr. Becki Cohn-Vargas from the NIOT offices in California. The called to invite NIOT BG to be a part of their National fundraising effort, and their drive to encourage contributions for “National Giving Tuesday”, scheduled for December 2nd. NIOT has prepared an online fundraising platform as well as other materials to aid in helping to promote this effort. The goal is to raise $20,000 by December 31st.

   1. List-serv sign-ups
   2. Weekly Digest

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

A. NIOT Night at BGSU Hockey on Friday, November 14th.
   a. The game is against the Ohio State University, and begins at 8:07 p.m.; NIOT will have banners and buttons available.
   b. Gary and Ray will be dropping the ceremonial pucks at the game. We will need volunteers to help at the tables.
   c. We encourage any volunteers to arrive by 7pm.

B. BG Holiday Parade:
   a. Saturday, November 22, 2014. Begins at 10am
   b. Joint effort with the Human Relations Commission
   c. Line-up begins at 9:20 a.m. at Wofly Avenue.
   d. Need volunteers to help walk in the parade, hold banners, etc.
   e. HRC has been able to get golf carts – if we need anymore, need to let Barbara know by Monday, Nov. 17th

C. NIOT Week sponsored by the Collective
   a. Final flyers to be shared with Friday's NIOT Digest
   b. Whole week of different events that include International Week, Gender Awareness Days and Native American Heritage month programs
   c. Kickoff event on Monday, November 17th at 7pm in Olscamp 101 – includes an NIOT 101, showing of Waking in Oak Creek and general feedback/comments on NIOT

D. Financial future of NIOT
a. In light of the call from the National NIOT group, a reminder of the unstable shape of our current financial situation. This is part of the work to ensure the sustainability of the effort.

b. Potential to use avenues through the community to help – submit proposals for future usage and needs

c. Definitely something that needs to be on the radar

VI. Discussion: Preparing for the Ferguson Grand Jury Decision

With news surfacing that the Grand Jury may be nearing its decision, the issue was brought up in terms of how NIOT-BG will respond so that we can be as proactive as possible.

The following points were raised:
• Prepare to respond with a formal statement within 24 hours of decision – will need to respond quick. Ray/Gary will prepare response.
• Goal and purpose of our response
• Consider approaches such as teach-ins, and other actions
• Find out what other groups such as the Black Student Union (BSU) are doing.
• Consideration of space, time and voices (moderate, skilled voices)
• Neutral places in the community such as the Library, Grounds for Thought, etc.
• Vigils
• Promotion in the community – example of the signboard at the Unitarian Church
• Working with BGSU President’s Office and BG Mayor’s Office as part of the protocol response effort
  1. Heather/Gary to contact City officials
  2. Vicky/Ray to contact University officials

VII. Good of the Order
• Heather – participated in the most recent iStand presentation and potential for it to be adapted for the community
• Heather - Potential for greater collaboration between the HRC and NIOT on different initiatives
• Tanesha – Shared that this would be her last NIOT meeting as she has a new job. SAAFE Center will be looking at sending a new representative.
• Marcy – HRC has some funds that could be used to help fund some collaborative opportunities
• Kit – first meeting. Joined the BG Community six months ago and works within University Athletics at BGSU.
• Gary – acknowledgment of the efforts by the First Presbyterian Church to help sponsor the BGSU LGBT Faculty/Staff Reception.
• Gary – looking at options to have special NIOT meetings in other venues in the community
• Ray - reminder about the NIOT Hockey night
• Ray – reminder that information for Friday’s digest is needed by Thursday night as the digest goes out on Friday morning.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2014 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Room 314