

Notes
Meeting to Plan Hastings Black History Month Event
December 2, 2017, Lakeside Cemetery

In Attendance: Paris Pasch, Hastings Ministerial Association (HMA)
Doug Duin, HMA, Our Saviors
Greg Geier, HMA, St Philips Lutheran
Deb Saunders, Hastings Prescott Area Arts Council (HPAAC)
Dan Kocher, Resurrection United Methodist
Craig Wasner, Resurrection United Methodist
Peg Varien, St Luke's Church
Bronwyn Skov, St Luke's Church
Dick Graham, HPAAC
Heidi Langenfeld, Friends of Le Duc and Historic Hastings
Margaret Godersted, Friends of Le Duc and Historic Hastings
Gail Carstensen, Lakeside Cemetery

Unable to attend: Bill Spinelli, Hastings Diversity and Equity Project (HDEP)
Tina Folch, Ward 1, Hastings City Council

Convener/ Notes: Rich Manke, Lakeside Cemetery

As happens in many first community meetings, our conversation was wide-ranging and free-flowing. While I have endeavored to accurately summarize the discussion--I expect that I missed something. If so, please be contact so that I can amend the record.

Ideas expressed early in the conversation:

- Will a Black History Month event be an ending or beginning?
- We must be careful not to co-opt communities of color. On the other hand, the early story of Hastings black history was shaped by the actions of white citizens.
- It is too early for reconciliation. Forgiveness is not cheap.
- As a community we need to become more aware.
- How do we become better neighbors?
- We need to reach beyond this small group. For example City Leaders, HDEP, service organizations, Black Dirt Theatre, Senior Center, HPAAC, etc.
- Reach out to the Gazette, KDWA, Hastings cable TV and schools when time is right.
- This is an all white group. Who else can we invite to the table?
- How can we tap into the growing community of Hastings artists?
- The City Council has agreed to publish a proclamation for the event.

Three significant themes emerged.

1. We should plan for a significant event for Black History Month.
 - We need to plan around Lent. Early Feb. may be best.
 - We should hold the event in a non-church facility such as the High School or Middle School theaters.
 - Schedule the event outside of regular church service times. Saturday or weekday evening options were discussed.
 - The event should be culturally immersive quality incorporating African American music/dance/drama.
 - HMA members will play an important role in leading the event and guiding the spiritual/moral conversation that needs to occur regarding Hastings Black History.
 - HMA churches should consider focusing on Hastings Black History one Sunday in February.
 - The group felt strongly that this should not be a one-off event and that we should form a coalition of groups to build community-wide, ongoing programs, and activities.

3. HMA and the arts are essential to a successful Hastings Black History Month event and future programs/activities.

Next meeting

1:00 pm Wednesday, Dec. 13 at the Lakeside Cemetery office.