



Notes

Building Bridges in Hastings: Our Black History Planning Meeting Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Attending: Dick Graham, Heidi Langenfeld, Bronwyn Skov, Peggy Varien, Dan Kocher, Margaret Goderstad, Dorothy Sandahl (I failed to record attendance. Apologies if I missed someone.)

Note taker: Rich Manke

No additions/correction to last meeting notes.

Updates

Bronwyn and Heidi met several times to research the script for readers theatre which will involve 6 actors. Interesting factoid--Heidi noted a newspaper reporting the death of last Black Hastings resident in 1954--97 years after the first Black person moved here.

Margaret connected with Lin Warren. Lin is not aware of local African American performers. He suggested using recorded materials--such as Steel Family Singers and the Sounds of Blackness. If we do this we must be careful not to record any of the music. Dick volunteered to contact DCTC and Inver Grove to search for student musical groups.

Dick reported that HPAAC will be the fiscal agent for Building Bridges. He, Rich, and HPAAC's book keeper met Wednesday morning to discuss procedures. **Building Bridges can now accept donations and pay bills. All donations should be made out to HPAAC. Include Building Bridges in the memo line. Checks should be forward to Rich.**

Dick also reported that HPAAC will underwrite \$1000 of the costs for retaining Blackout Improve. Our thanks to HPAAC for their generous support.

Rich reported that he has sent a draft Black History Month Proclamation to city hall. He sent press releases to KDWA, Star Gazette, and Hastings Community TV. Heidi is working with Michelle Wirth on a weekly Black History Month series.

Bronwyn and Peg volunteered to develop a poster. Bronwyn is in the process of finalizing negotiations with Blackout--an important step before we can use their image and name.

Program

- All agree that the program content should be no longer than 75 minutes. An intermission is desirable but worries about losing energy and audience remain. This issue should resolve itself as the program takes shape.
- We will need a printed program. Sponsors will be noted on the program.
- All agreed that a well scripted *religious/prayerful* segment should be included in the program.
- A freewill donation will be included. Attendees will be able to contribute on the way out.
- Bronwyn will ask actors to be available for small group discussion in the lobby after program.
- Refreshments will encourage attendees to linger and talk.

Community Outreach & Fundraising

These are now our two highest priorities.

1. We need to figure out how to invite our minority residents.

Ideas--When ever we invite someone ask: *Who else do you know who might be interested in attending? How do we connect with them?* This type of networking likely done one person at a time and face-to-face.

2. Institutions we need to connect with, invite, and seek financial support when possible from-

Chamber of Commerce*

Library*

Community Ed*

YMCA*

Local Churches

Hastings Family Service

Hastings ISD-School Board, Principals, specific teachers

DCTC, Inver Grove

Facebook--I learned today that Deb Saunders will help

Emily's Bakery (cookie donation?)

*Rich volunteers to contact these organizations next week.

Can you identify organizations that you will reach out to?

Posters will be printed as soon as the contract with Blackout is inked.

Briefly the issue of follow up events was raised, specifically Gay Pride Month in June. A couple of members expressed interest.

Reverend DeYoung, (MN Council of Churches) also expressed interest in coming to Hastings.

Building Bridges in Hastings gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions of the following people and organizations.

Hastings Prescott Area Arts Organization (HPAAC)

Dick Graham

Heidi & Robert Langenfeld

Rich Manke & Julie Vogel