

Meeting with Community Leaders
December 9, 2014
Meeting Notes

Goals to impact white privilege:

1. Help people understand and acknowledge that white privilege exists
2. Educate people about white privilege
3. Eliminate white privilege by:
 - a. Increase the % of blacks who are registered to vote and who vote
 - b. Increase racial diversity on leaderships groups
 - c. Increase number of blacks who are running for office
 - d. Identify black leaders (formal and informal) and encourage and support them to run for position of power (e.g. WG Commissions)
4. Create task forces to drive the initiatives listed above
5. Increase employment opportunities and good paying employment opportunities
6. Take action to be sure business serve the community as a whole
7. Educate local business community on the need for social justice and the benefits of serving the community as a whole

Goals to Build Trust among Races:

1. Change from within
2. Keep and get faith groups involvement
3. Build relationships early in life
 - a. Constant and intentional
 - b. Effort to demonstrate a spirit of caring
4. Face and overcome fear
5. Avoid Generalizations
6. Hold each other accountable
7. Intentionally, effectively interact
8. When we know each other things change

Who?

1. Leaders (and therefore their constituencies)
2. Community members
3. Multiple ages

How?

1. Express, reflect, display UNITY
2. Talk about feelings
3. Accept personal/corporate action goals
4. Agree to partner in projects
5. Keep the leader meetings

Goals to bring down barriers to good race relations:

1. Cultivate a climate of openness
 - Use your voice when in presence of racial divide
 - Group everyone in same structure
 - Lack of understanding
 - Speak up against racism
2. Places and times for interaction and dialogue
 - Use media for reporting
 - Explore similarities
 - Why do people not feel welcome
 - Understand that we are individuals and do not move the same way
3. Provide resources such as books, articles, videos, mail, etc. Could be done on the website.
4. Does the nation want change

Goals to Reduce Stereotyping

1. Learn about each other
2. Bring high school students together from across the metro area or start with WGSC
3. BBQs, police interactions, that are positive
4. Leadership should have a specific goal in mind
5. Possibly start with Jason Parnell's recommendations from his research "For the Sake of All"
- encounter theory
6. We should encourage students/families to participate
7. Oak Park, IL examples
8. Stereotypes
 - Media
 - Shopping experiences that are negative
 - African Americans walking in groups

Other:

1. Keep talking as local leaders and as a community as a whole
2. Consider clergy ride alongs in the future with the police
3. Housing - Keep as a separate topic for the future
4. Schools - Keep as a separate topic for Equity in Education WGSD Committee
5. Parks and Neighborhoods - Consider as a separate discussion topic for the future

Ideas for the January 29, 2015 Community Meeting

1. Consider posting a series of meetings with schedule given during the early posting so people know they are signing on for a long-term project
2. Need a compelling vision - e.g. Creating a Caring Community (CommUNITY)
3. Need good flyers for distribution by churches, government, business, education organizations, etc.
4. Coordinate efforts with churches
5. Advertise in WK Times and other print media
6. Use social media to get the word out
7. Get the WG Commissions involved: Susan Watson and Jean Jadali
8. Involve Police and Fire Departments
9. Involve the Chamber of Commerce
10. Community group reps: Church, Government Leaders, School, Business
11. Have great food - maybe a soup cook-off, Stone Soup, Cooking up a community that cares
12. Discuss how to get young adults involved in social justice
13. Have HS musical groups provide entertainment
14. Discussion involving police
15. Door-to-door or face-to-face canvassing
16. Education (family has been discussed)
17. If discussion, then use trained facilitators
18. If listening session, then TIME
19. Small groups
 - a. Sex education
 - b. Families
 - c. Media Content
 - d. Police/protesters
 - e. Overcome provincialism
 - f. Public perspectives
 - g. Why
 - h. Safe
20. Provide food/refreshments and time to mingle together
21. Create and take home a pledge to sign
22. Q & A
23. Youth involvement
24. Multi-media event
25. Youth Employment Opportunity Information
26. Pre-meeting for marketing and communications
27. Keynote speaker
28. Panel discussion
29. Child care and child activities
30. Voter registration