

SOUTH ORANGE/MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE
September 27, 2018 Meeting

Call to Order: Vice Chair David Harris called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM due to train delays for Chair Robert A. Marchman.

Present: Carol Barry-Austin, Lee Boswell May, Colleen Breslin (late), Abigail Cotler, Catherine Cronin, Nancy Gagnier, Leila Gonzalez Sullivan, David Harris, Robert A. Marchman, Fred R. Profeta Jr., Kelly Quirk, George Robinson, Audrey Rowe, Erin Scherzer, Barbara Velazquez, Meredith Sue Willis.

Absent: Nina Essel, Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, Rhea Mokund-Beck, Reynaldo Tapia,
Excused: Walter Clarke, Tegan Culler, Dean Dafis, Deborah Davis Ford.

Minutes Approval: Sue Willis moved Minutes be approved pending correction of typos and Kelly Quirk seconded followed by trustee approval including 3 abstentions.

Chair Report:

- Chair Marchman recognized publicist, Nubia Wilson DuVall, for her efforts and success in booking the 8 minutes on air interview with ABC. The TV host was impressed with the organization. Trustee Cronin added that Ms. DuVall also secured a Black realtor to participate in the upcoming focus group research.
- Chair Marchman acknowledged the Coffee House Discussion for the Latinx outreach as a good start to outreach.

Executive Director Report:

- Monthly financials were sent to trustees in advance and the floor was opened for questions. No questions were asked.
- NationBuilder site has been designed and is awaiting testing by ED Gagnier and Trustee Quirk before going live. Content is being transferred from old site in total with deletion of outdated material. Improved navigation, cleaner look and mobile responsiveness have been added to the site. The url is now CommunityCoalitiononRace instead of TwoTowns, but all traffic will be directed to the new url.
- FaceBook would not allow boosting for the Integration an Equity in Education Forum because Assemblywoman Jasey's name was flagged and event labeled as political.
- Trustees are asked to continue to add prospects for the Annual Appeal.
- The first financial review since 2016 has been completed and the accountant's report will be shared with the Board. No vote is required.
- The ED needs input from committees for the 2019 budget by October 15th for incorporation into the budget overview presented to Maplewood on October 19th.

Program Director's Report:

- Trustees were directed to the full Program Highlights distributed earlier in the Trustee Packet.
- Thanks to trustees who staffed the Coalition's South Orange Play Day signing up 8 new subscribers.
- The ED and Program Director staffed the Coalition table at South Orange Newcomers Day and received high interest in our programs with 18 sign-ups (6 B/10W/1A/ 1mixed).
- The September Coffee House Discussion focused on the local Latinx community drew 22 participants including 10 Latinx households from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

- Coalition staff is invited to speak with the emerging integration organization in Berkeley Heights on October 4th.
- A reminder of the timeline for 2019 Goals & Objectives and Budget will be sent by the ED.

Nominations

- Seven nominations packets have been sent to prospects(5 SO/2 M)
- The board needs more males and South Orange representatives.
- Interviews will be held the first two weeks of October 2018
- Four incumbent trustees have expiring terms and 3 are renewing.
- By Laws allow up to 35 trustees, but the committee recommends staying under 25.
- Both governing bodies were invited to offer nominations.

Annual Dinner

- Thanks was extended to trustee Annual Dinner table hosts and it was noted that there is still time to become a host.
- Help is needed for set-up and clean-up and Trustee Quirk has circulated a Sign-up Genius to trustees with tasks to be covered. Please respond.
- Seventy sets sold so far with two weeks remaining and a goal of 120.
- Five gift certificates have been received for the card tree, so far.
- Mark Murphy Music School will donate a student band for the cocktail hour and a playlist will be used for the dancing segment.

Initiatives Wording Review (Comment Follow)

- Q: Is this wording for internal use only? How will focusing on Black only play with the public? R: The Demographic Study will be used is the rationale.
- The order of the two initiatives should be flipped because the first is more inclusive. There was agreement for this change.
- The initiative is strengthened by including culture in addition to race. This was also agreed.
- New order and wording follow:

Initiative 1

Strengthen the community's commitment to racial and cultural inclusion of all people of color by challenging the community power structures* to rectify disparities and by promoting the value of inclusiveness to the well-being of the community.

*(municipal government, school system, realtors, businesses, arts and recreation groups, corporate and nonprofit groups, media, and key leaders and influencers)

Initiative 2

Ensure the sustainability of racial integration in SOMA by both affirming and supporting the current population of Black people and by researching and developing strategies to increase the rate of Black in-movers.

- The revised version will be sent to trustees and referenced in the Annual Dinner Ad Journal.
- Question was raised concerning input to goals across committees to better align them with the initiatives. Response was that everyone will have the opportunity to comment

during the November meeting which is November 15 – moved up a week for Thanksgiving.

- Any budget projections shared in October are provisional and subject to adjustments following budget approval.
- Measurement impact is needed for all Goals & Objectives and Trustee Quirk will serve as a resource to committees needing assistance in this area.

Liaison Reports:

South Orange

- Debra Davis Ford expressed that the South Orange Master Plan which defines the township's multi-decade vision needs diverse representation. (NOTE: The Coalition received an invitation)
- South Orange Play Day is Sunday, September 16 with additions of all-day pass for bouncies at only \$5, a zip line and other attractions.
- South Orange Newcomers' Day is September 23rd from 2-4 pm at South Orange Library.
- The 2nd Annual Charity Golf event co-organized by Liaison Davis-Ford to support selected 501C3 organizations is September 17 at East Orange Golf Club. Last year's \$30K recipient was YouthNet and this year's awardee will be the South Orange Rescue Squad. Registration starts at noon, golfing begins at 1 pm and dinner is at 6 pm.

Maplewood

- Liaison excused

New Business/Announcements:

- This meeting marks Executive Director, Nancy Gagnier's 10th anniversary with the Community Coalition on Race.
- South Orange Tennis Courts will be dedicated to the memory of Kenney Graham on September 29, 2018

Announcements:

- Erick Ward is presenting lecture on October 25th on White Nationalism
- This Saturday the Tennis Courts at Meadowland Park will be dedicated to Kenny Graham as first Black South Orange citizen to receive a naming honor.
- SOMA residents are asked to complete the online survey for input on hiring a new SOMSD Superintendent.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 24, at 7:30 PM at Prospect Presbyterian Church, 646 Prospect St. Maplewood NJ. **DATE CHANGE**

Submitted By: Audrey Rowe

Secretary: Carol Barry-Austin