

# SETTING THE BLAZE

## MINUTES

July 30, 2018

Fresh Anointing Cathedral, 3001 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Richmond VA 23222

1. Order  
The meeting came to order with prayer at 12:10PM.
2. Introductions were made. List of those in attendance is attached.
3. Our mission  
To form a coalition of faith leaders that will be intentional in God's mission for us to help churches in a community seek the peace and welfare of that community.  
  
Vision  
To create a best practice that will be used around the city.
4. The reason that i want to start in Highland Park is because we have a start here already with the Highland Park Quality of Life Teams. We reviewed the status those teams. Copy attached.
5. Then there's Team 6 which is why we were meeting today. We didn't want to focus a lot of time on what we've done wrong in the past but we did have to spend a few minutes on that so we could learn from it. Why have we been unsuccessful in creating a real sustainable group?
  - a) We allowed RPD to take the lead instead of the Faith Leaders. Unfortunately, when that happens and Polices Chief's change, so does our activities.
  - b) Church congregations only participate in activities that go on at their church normally. There's very little collaboration.
  - c) When one church is the lead, the other churches didn't participate.
  - d) Time commitments. Pastors have very heavy schedules and don't have time to be very active in too many things outside of their church.
  - e) We did a lot of pop up activities without continuing in the area long enough to create a lasting improvement.
6. Things we can do to illuminate the above issues

This first one can be checked off as done because what we did today was start forming the coalition outside of RPD.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of September will be our Setting the Blaze launch date. To get more churches to participate as a collaboration rather than just do their own thing at their churches, We will used this as an opportunity to schedule meetings with the pastors in HP. We will be asking 3 things of them: 1) what are the needs of your congregation that we might be able to meet in September; 2) will they allow 2 of their members to be a part of the collaborative board, 3) will you adopt a 3-4 block radius around your

church depending on where the next church is. Manny already has been working with groups of people ready to do this. We need to make sure they have projects to do which we hope will come from the church members themselves.

We should not call what we do events, it should be called a movement. We should not use the names of the churches in the movement so that we're all working as one. We need to give the whole collaboration a name and everything goes under that. I've called it "Setting the Blaze" but let me know of any other names you think fits this group.

We need a directory of what each church has to offer so that we can make the community aware of these things. Many people in the community just see churches as worship buildings in the community not taking into consideration that other things are happening in them as well.

We need churches from outside of Highland Park in the coalition so we ask each faith leader, especially pastors, to try and get another FL/Pastor to come with them to the next meeting. This is how William said they build a huge coalition across the Hampton Roads area. This is the only way we will be able to build teams that will move onto the new location when we leave Highland Park. Some of the teams we need are:

- Team to plan the shared Setting the Blaze service days
- Team to plan the prayer walks
- Team to meet with the Pastors of the churches
- Team to handle the church directory

7. Advertising / Social Media

We did not get around to talking about advertising and social media, but all the below items Jo can handle:

- PSAs
- Nextdoor Highland Park
- Website
- Facebook

8. We Adjourned at 1:55PM.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Review the mission statement and send Jo changes you would like to see made so we can have the list of suggested changes for the next meeting.
2. Schedule meetings with churches to speak with them about September 30<sup>th</sup> Setting the Blaze Date.
3. Suggestions for the name of the movement. I've been calling it "Setting the Blaze" but let me know if there are any other suggestions on the table.

4. Jo can have someone take care of the initial calls to the churches to schedule the meetings to discuss the Setting the Blaze launch day. We need 2 people, at least one of them being a minister, to actually go to the meetings. Who's open to this?
5. Pastors, think about who you want to invite to the next meeting.
6. Think about this question, how will we measure sustainability.
7. See the attached Memorandum of Understanding and give us your feedback
8. Start on Website. (Jo) (PSA already done)
9. Will anyone be the lead on starting the directory or does any of the pastors have someone in your congregation that might start on this?
10. Invite Felicia Cosby (school board) to the next meeting (Jo)
11. Invite Lee Mitchell to the next meeting. (Manny)
12. Schedule next meeting date (Jo)

**Attachments:**

Attendance sheet

Highland Park Quality of Life Teams

Memorandum of Understanding

Once you commit, you cannot quit!

The Tipping Point – the point at which a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change. 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Let's create a Tipping Point.