

2019
August



WDN Regional Council
Meeting Summary

Host: Harter Secrest & Emery
Topic Discussion: History of Segregation & Racist Policy in Rochester

History of Segregation and Racist Policy in Rochester

Our featured presenter at the meeting was, Shane Wiegand, a fourth grade teacher in the Rush Henrietta Central School District. He attended SUNY Geneseo where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Childhood and Special Education and a Master's degree in Childhood Multicultural Education. Shane and his wife Jennie Dixon live in the Beechwood Neighborhood. He serves as treasurer on the board of the Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition, sits on the Connected Communities Housing Committee, and serves on the board of the City Roots Community Land Trust.

Shane has given his presentation on the history of segregation and racist policy in Rochester over fifty times at schools, universities, charities, businesses, and neighborhood meetings. He has also developed a curriculum for teaching elementary and middle school students the local history of redlining and the black freedom struggle.

His workshop explored the basics of the practice of redlining across urban development in the United States and racist/discriminatory housing practices throughout Rochester and urban cities across the country.

How these exploitative practices led to the disinvestment of the inner city, downtown; eventually leading to displacement in the present was just one of many essential questions that we explored.

After Shane's presentation, as a full group we addressed the following question:

- "What individual and collective actions can we take today to dismantle and end systematic displacement of marginalized communities and persons of color?"
- Following are some of the suggested actions the group came up with:
- Share what we have learned today with one other person.
- Challenge my organization's hiring practices
- Start being brave.
- Get Shane to come and speak at my organization.
- Start to advocate for local field trips that are more inclusive.
- Don't get personal with others, share facts.
- Share this presentation with leaders as a way to engage them.
- Be mindful at the voting booth.

Following is a link to Shane's presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1z6YVBYn5yhWMFErM5nT2-d3CF6iqBWeX_dJr_DRq3Lc/edit?usp=sharing