

response from Sunday 6-21-24

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Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:51 PM

To: mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovemd.org <mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovemd.org> **Subject:** response from Sunday 6-21-24

from Nan, wondering how I got in the middle of this...

These are my thoughts only, not as a RASEC representative.

I have no idea what they were talking about. I missed the first session. This is the first I've heard about Rev. Warner's racist experience and others' experiences in the Grove. Wow. I'd like to hear more.

On the other hand, it seems like there are two parts of RASEC. One that should have been done 30+ years ago, brutal information and direct discussion, perspectives and thoughts. And another sweetsie piesie "let's all get to know each other and be friends." Mixing the two is confusing. For example, some of the best people I know in the Grove have felt like we do enough with charitable works etc., but are still open to discussing why that's not enough if you want to confront and grow out of your unconscious mistaken racial ideology. It's really hard to do if you don't live with or have close family that are black or any other-than-white members. You can't get defensive; you just have to want to grow and learn others' experience. My late husband and my good friend, Black Puerto Rican, would let me know when something was racist. It was always a surprise to me.

On the third hand, another smart person once told me "you can't make people ready to look at racism or biases by using a sledgehammer." (paraphrased) I don't think all people in the Grove are ready or willing to examine these things and shouldn't be forced. I was forced, willingly, after being left with three school-age biracial children when I lost my husband to cancer. It's not easy to represent who you are not. We need mentors and if we have to go through anger to get to the other side, so be it. So if we refuse to allow black non-residents to participate, we will have to tokenize our maybe four black resident families, which is not fair to them. I do agree, voting on the money to spend should be residents, but that's up to the town council with recommendations from RASEC anyway.

So maybe a small meeting with Rev. Warner and anyone who wants to directly discuss the past racist relationship and whatever that incident was without sliding off it to go to "building bridges" to avoid uncomfortable topics. Directly noting racism of the past is not to judge or shame, it's to learn and face things so we are ready to not let it happen again and the victims know we care to understand and are ready to be allies. I think they were trying to discuss it without discussing it and that's what made it ridiculous to the rest of us.

And now I find out you all had a great meeting later over the food....drat, I should have stayed.

Sincerely,

Nan

Feel free to send my part to any of your friends or neighbors, I've already blown my code-switching for WG. lol

PS: two things for anyone to check out just for fun and I'd love to hear everyone's thoughts on these:

1. [Leading With Empathy & Allyship: How To Hurry History: Moving DEI Forward Faster With Laura Liswood on Apple Podcasts](#)

There are several options of this including YouTube or a transcript for those who love books. The author focuses mostly on gender and works with women who run countries, but clearly states the benefits of DEI on a personal level. Thanks to Lynn for the contact!

2. **Stamped: Racism, antiracism, and you: A Remix of Stamped From the Beginning by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi**

Ibram's books are too deep for me, this one is remixed aimed at teenagers and much easier to read, but I could only do a small part at a time...too painful for me. It's at the library as an audio book as well as a book. A delightful humorous yet real book. Let me know if you love or hate it.