

City of Keene
New Hampshire

MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. /JONATHAN DANIELS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Bill Hay, Chair
Rev. Michael Hall
Yves Gakunde
Mandi Slate
Dottie Morris (Late)
Melanie Everard, Vice-Chair (Late)

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Parks & Rec Director
Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

Members Not Present:

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. Roll call was conducted.

2) Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2017

Rev. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2017 as submitted. Ms. Slate seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Gakunde referred to Page 3, first paragraph where it reads “Get out the Vote” and asked if this should be “Get Out to Vote”. Chair Hay and others indicated “Get out the Vote” was correct, but nobody was absolutely certain which was correct.

3) Finance Report – (Page 9 of 9)

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance \$8,262.66 with no changes from the previous month.

Mr. Gakunde made a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented. Ms. Slate seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4) Request of Funds- MONIFF (Page 5 of 9)

Chair Hay referred to the email (dated February 27, 2017) he forwarded from Ms. Costello. “We have a press release ready to go out on now announcing the JD Award winning film and filmmaker. I can hold off until Thursday morning, because if your committee co-sponsors the

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee
March 1, 2017

award with us for \$1K, then I want to put that into the press release. As I mentioned, the other option is sponsoring the film, "I Am Not Your Negro", but that doesn't come with any JD award publicity." Chair Hay commented he feels "I Am Not Your Negro" is more relative to this Committee's mission than the film selected to receive the Jonathan Daniels award. Mr. Bohannon cautioned Chair Hay that in the future emails needed to be sent through staff and not directly to Committee members. Chair Hay noted his understanding.

Mr. Gakunde asked what the Committee would get for a \$500.00 contribution and noted his concern that the Committee is on a fixed budget with no plans for fund raising. Ms. Morris clarified the original request for \$2,000.00 would be paying for the entire Jonathan Daniels award. Continuing the discussion Rev. Hall suggested giving \$1,000.00 to pay for the award so the Committee would still be in on the award publicity. Mr. Bohannon reiterated the history of this annual request for those members not present at the last meeting.

Ms. Morris indicated she was in favor of giving something greater than \$250.00 but less than the original request of \$2,000.00. Discussion continued regarding the amount of publicity the Committee would/would not receive. Ms. Slate enquired about the Committee having its own Facebook page and who would be responsible for its maintenance. Mr. Bohannon indicated a press release could be sent out on the City's Facebook page; he also noted this is managed by the IT Department. Chair Hay also suggested a press release could be sent to the Sentinel to note what the Committee is doing in support of this event.

Ms. Morris asked if there was any way the Committee could facilitate a discussion afterwards. She commented this could be the Committee's other contribution. Chair Hay said he knows the filmmaker is not available. Mr. Bohannon asked if the Committee could show the film after the festival. He suggested the possibilities of showing it at KSC or Keene High School with Committee members being part of the discussion. Committee members agreed they were unaware of the screening rights. Ms. Morris provided some information noting the costs of screening a film could be as much as a few thousand dollars. Mr. Gakunde also suggested a screening at the Library. Chair Hay commented these are questions we cannot get answered right now and we do have to act on the MONIFF request. Mr. Bohannon indicated Ms. Spaulding could follow up with Ms. Costello to advise her that the Committee would like to donate to the Film Festival; however we would like to have these questions answered prior to the donation. Mr. Bohannon continued it would be contingent upon this information. Mr. Bohannon also noted he is hearing the Committee wants to support the event in some way. Chair Hay said he would like to see an all or none on the \$500.00. Mr. Bohannon explained the current budget status and how it would be affected by the \$500.00 donation. Continuing the discussion Chair Hay suggested the additional screening would be between the Committee and the filmmaker, MONIFF would not be involved. Chair Hay also agreed this could be presented to Ms. Costello.

Rev. Hall motioned for the Committee to donate \$500.00 to the MONIFF to sponsor the film "I'm Not Your Negro" contingent on the following condition:

- 1) The Committee is able to lead a discussion right after the film screening.

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee
March 1, 2017

Ms. Morris seconded the motion. Chair Hay clarified this means if we cannot lead a discussion they get no money. Rev. Hall replied in the affirmative. The motion carried on a 5-1 vote with Chair Hay voting in opposition.

5) Election of Officers- Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Slate nominated Chair Hay and Ms. Everard to continue in their present positions. Rev. Hall seconded the nomination which carried with a unanimous vote. Both Chair Hay and Ms. Everard agreed to continue in their elected positions.

6) Request for Funds Protocol Review – (Page 6 of 9)

Ms. Spaulding reiterated the Committee does have a form that is required to be completed five days before the next meeting by the applicant (must be received the Wednesday before the meeting to be included on the agenda). Ms. Spaulding noted she wanted all Committee members to be aware this form does exist. Chair Hay clarified the applicant would need to submit this request two months before as the Committee hears the request and then votes on it at the next month's meeting.

7) Programming Ideas –

1. Ms. Slate reported out on her research of books for a read aloud (this discussion took place at the January 4, 2017 meeting). She provided the following list of books available at the Library:

The Youngest Marcher, the Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks by Cynthia Levinson
for grade 2-4

We've Got a Job also by Cynthia Levinson appropriate for middle school

***I reached out to Cynthia Levinson who is a friend of a friend; she lives in Boston "in the fall" and is willing to do a book visit (not sure how much that would cost)

Melody: An American Girl Story upper elem.

White Water by Michael S. Bandy grades K-3

Freedom on the Menu by Carol Boston-Weatherford

Sit-In by Andrea Davis Pinkney gr. 2-5

The School is Not White by Doreen Rappaport upper elementary

Witness to Freedom by Belinda Rochelle middle school

New Shoes by Susan Meyer (who sent me a FB friend request) gr 1-4 www.susanlynnmeyer.com

Ms. Slate noted Melody is not yet available at the Library. Ms. Slate reported both Susan Meyer and Cynthia Levinson are available for a book visit. Ms. Slate has not researched what the costs would be. Ms. Slate commented she did not know if the Committee was still interested in pursuing this idea or checking out books from the Library with Committee members visiting the schools on behalf of the Committee. Ms. Slate asked for Committee feedback. Mr. Bohannon noted the Committee has done something like this in the past. He also indicated the Committee could apply for a \$1,000.00 C&S grant to help defray costs. Mr. Bohannon also pointed out the need to talk with the School District to determine their willingness to participate/perhaps the Committee just targets one school. Discussion continued with Rev. Hall referring to the Youngest Marcher and asking if she is still alive. Ms. Slate did not have the answer to the question.

March 1, 2017

After further discussion Committee members agreed Ms. Slate should research the cost of having one of the authors come for a read aloud (Susan Meyer or Cynthia Levinson). Ms. Slate will report back at the next meeting. Ms. Spaulding will send the book list out to Committee members via email.

2. Ms. Everard introduced Susan Hay. Ms. Everard explained she and Ms. Hay are members of the Monadnock Progressive Alliance. Ms. Hay explained this is a non-profit group looking to maintain our freedoms, rights, and values in these political times. Ms. Hay continued there is also a subgroup involved with immigration issues. This subgroup has three purposes in mind with regards to immigration.

1. Make sure all immigrants and refugees that are in our communities are safe.
2. That they feel and in fact are welcomed.
3. The subgroup would like to have more immigrants and refugees here in this area of New Hampshire.

Ms. Hay reported this group is thinking about how to go about this. She noted the suggestion to invite Keene to be a sanctuary city; another suggestion is to understand what our immigrant population really is and their experiences. Ms. Hay clarified this is not a political issue; it is a value based issue. She noted the question asked was what would Jonathan Daniels be doing today around these issues? Ms. Hay reported the group is building a campaign around what would Jonathan Daniels do. Ms. Hay provided some of the ideas presented by the group. She noted this group is moving relatively fast and asked if the Committee would like to participate in this endeavor. Ms. Hay also clarified this is not a financial request.

Ms. Everard commented she hopes there is no objection to the group using Jonathan Daniels name. After additional comments she noted her fear that in 10 years children will not know who Jonathan Daniels was because of the school closing. Ms. Everard noted the group talked about how to keep Jonathan Daniels' name alive in the future.

Discussion continued with Mr. Gakunde noting the Mayor's comments in this regard (immigrants) at the last City Council meeting. Rev. Hall read the Committee's mission statement; Chair Hay added he has been thinking about how to keep this Committee relevant.

Mr. Bohannon commented he feels this is a relevant conversation and aligns with conversations he has had regarding future educational events/discussions. Mr. Bohannon recommended this discussion be taken up at the next meeting. Ms. Hay indicated by that time the group will probably have more concrete action items that can be presented.

8) New Business – Nothing at this time.

9) Adjourn-

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 6:08 PM.

Next meeting date: April 5, 2017

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee

March 1, 2017

March 2, 2017