

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Parks & Rec Director (Late)

Members Not Present:

Dottie Morris

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

2) Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2017

Mr. Gakunde made a motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2017 as submitted. Ms. Slate seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report – (Page 5 of 5)

Mr. Gakunde and Chair Hay reported the current balance is \$9,012.66 with no changes from last month.

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

4) Summary of MONIFF Event-

Chair Hay reported the Committee did get lots of publicity throughout the event. Chair Hay noted he and Ms. Morris were there for the Committee. Chair Hay discussed the book/film “I’m Not Your Negro”. He also commented on the discussion following the screening of the film. Chair Hay and others commented on what a moving event this was. Chair Hay commented he thought the Committee’s level of sponsorship this year was appropriate.

5) Update- Book/Author Sponsorship

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee
May 3, 2017

Ms. Slate reported she and Mr. Bohannon have not yet connected so there is no update on the C&S grant. Ms. Slate connected with Susan Meyer and reports she is amenable to the terms discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Meyer is agreeable to discussing her three books also discussed at the previous meeting. Regarding the timeframe Ms. Meyer would prefer late September to early October. Mr. Gakunde reminded the Committee of the Washington D.C. trip that is set for the September timeframe also. Ms. Slate recommended securing the funds for this event before continuing discussions with Ms. Meyer. Ms. Meyer is also willing to work elements of Jonathan Daniels story into her presentation/discussion. Ms. Slate discussed her reading of the three books in question: New Shoes, Black Radishes, and Skating with the Statue of Liberty.

Mr. Gakunde reported he did make contact with Gail Zachariah. He noted that Friends of the Library are interested in helping to sponsor this event. Mr. Gakunde made reference to the Library renovations about to start noting parking may be an issue. He suggested perhaps thinking of another venue. Rev. Hall noted the Church could be available. Committee members agreed there is time to work on these items and which days during the week to hold the event.

6) Washington DC- September 15th – 17th

Mr. Gakunde noted there is nothing new to report. He suggested reaching out to social media for more exposure. Ms. Slate would like to see it shared on Facebook. Mr. Bohannon reported he will talk with Wilson Bus regarding tickets for the African American Smithsonian.

7) New Business –

1. Ms. Everard reported on the Keene Immigrant Refugee Program (KIRP) Committee community conversation that was held last Monday. Chair Hay noted various individuals who were there. Ms. Everard noted the yard signs “All Are Welcome Here” are being placed around Keene. Chair Hay noted they are also being displayed in store windows. Ms. Everard reported the yard signs cost \$10.00 and are available for sale. Chair Hay will touch base with the group that sponsored the Jonathan Daniels Award at MONIFF to ascertain if there is any interest in someone there serving on the Committee. Mr. Bohannon will verify there is an opening on the Committee.

2. Rev. Hall made note of the new mural by Craig Roach and suggested a mural attributed to Jonathan Daniels might be a good idea for the Committee to look into. Rev. Hall will forward his suggestion to the Friends of Public Art through Mr. Bohannon.

8) Adjourn-

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Next meeting date: June 7, 2017

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker
May 4, 2017