

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Derek Scalia, Chair
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair
Ella MacDonald
Mandi Slate
Karen Chabot
Yves Gakunde

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

Melanie Everard
Dottie Morris

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Scalia welcomed Barbara Woods as a guest.

2) Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2015 (Page 2 of 12 in the packet)

Ms. Slate made a motion to accept the minutes of April 1, 2015. Ms. Chabot seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report – (Page 12 of 12 in the packet)

Ms. Spaulding reported the donations received from the mailing (\$125), and a refund from the Coalition of Churches and Art (\$205.88) have been deposited. Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$8,203.06.

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

4) New England Non-violent Communication – Sponsorship request (Page 7 of 12 in the packet)

Chair Scalia noted this is a sponsorship in name only, and the event is taking place this Saturday. Ms. Woods did present her request some months back.

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Ms. Chabot motioned to support the Non-Violent Communication event. Ms. Slate seconded which carried unanimously.

Ms. Woods will forward the flyer with the Committee name added to Ms. Spaulding for email distribution. Ms. Spaulding advised Ms. Woods there is a public bulletin board at the Rec Center that she can also use.

As Ms. Zachariah was not present Committee members posed no objection to moving on to agenda item 6.

5) Keene Public Library- Sponsorship Request (Page 8 of 12 in the packet)

Gail Zachariah, of the Library reported the event will run from June 24, 2015 through September 2015. The Program name is “Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963 Exhibit, Keene Chautauqua & Called to Action: Jonathan Daniels and the Teenagers who Fought for Civil Rights”. The project budget total is \$9,846.54. Ms. Zachariah reported she submitted a NHHC grant application in the amount of \$4,773.70 in which this Committee is listed as a partner. The Library’s cash contribution is \$2,102.84. Ms. Zachariah outlined the many events and some changes noting her financial request of \$500.00 from the Committee to cover a portion of the Wallace’s fee.

Chair Scalia advised Ms. Zachariah as per protocol the Committee would vote on this at the next meeting.

6) Keene remembers Jonathan Daniels Event Update –

Chair Scalia reiterated this is the Colonial Theatre event on August 22, 2015. There is no charge for this event (free). He reported the Keene Community Kitchen has come on as a sponsor; adding non-perishable food donations would be accepted and appreciated. Chair Scalia reviewed the speakers coming noting the addition of Jimmy Rogers. Mr. Rogers is the individual who organized the protest in Hayneville, Alabama where Jonathan Daniels was arrested. Committee members are invited to attend the reception at St. James Church. Chair Scalia indicated the format of the program is coming along; noting all five of the guests will be speaking (panel) after the film. The Colonial Theatre will be handling most of the publicity with marketing coming out in July. Chair Scalia also reported there will be two gatherings; one in the morning with childhood friends of Jonathan Daniels, and one in the afternoon with the five guest speakers (filmed by Larry Benaquist for the Jonathan Daniels archives). Chair Scalia will advise the Committee if any assistance is needed from them.

Ms. Zachariah arrived and Chair Scalia returned to agenda item #5.

7) Civil Rights Icon Exhibit–

Chair Scalia reported the event was very successful. He noted it was laid out well and very moving. This was an event sponsored by the Committee.

8) Public Art Update - Nothing at this time.

9) Book/Community Discussion Event –

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This discussion was continued from the April 1, 2015 meeting. After discussion Committee members agreed this is something they would like to pursue for the 2016 event schedule. Committee members agreed they should include the elementary, high school, and larger community rather than just the elementary school level. The focus will be on issues facing the community such as equality or racism. Excerpt from the previous minutes: "*Sandra and Rich Wallace's book "Blood Brothers" available for release in August 2016. The authors are interested in working with this Committee (book discussions). Chair Scalia agreed to contact Sandra Wallace.*"

Committee members agreed to take on the following tasks to gather information and report back at the next meeting:

- Mr. Gakunde will contact Nancy Ancharski.
- Ms. Slate will reach out to the teachers and ascertain their interest in the program.
- Ms. MacDonald will contact Jon Perry at the High School.
- Mr. Gakunde will connect with Antioch students.

Ms. Woods also suggested contacting Peter Segal at Simon's School. Mr. Gakunde suggested making a connection with the students at Antioch University who receive the Jonathan Daniels Scholarship.

10) New Business -

1. Mr. Hay made a motion to cancel the July 1, 2015 meeting. Ms. Chabot seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Hay noted the closing next year of the Jonathan Daniels School and suggested the Committee look into what it would take to name the High School after Jonathan Daniels. He suggested this could be a project for 2016. Committee members noted they did not know what would be involved in this process. Ms. Spaulding will contact the City Clerk's office for information on this process and report back her findings.

3. Chair Scalia reported there will be commemorative signs placed on the Jonathan Daniels Trail which runs from Ashuelot Park to Wheelock Park.

4. Ms. Woods noted there are many videos available that show how restorative justice can work in schools; she suggested this might be an idea for next year.

11) Adjourn-

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 5:36 PM.

Next meeting: August 5, 2015

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall
Minute Taker
June 4, 2015