

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Derek Scalia, Chair
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair
Ella MacDonald
Mandi Slate
Dottie Morris

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

Yves Gakunde
Melanie Everard

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll call was conducted.

2) Approval of Minutes – September 2, 2015

Ms. Slate made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 2, 2015 with the following correction on Page 2, under Next Meeting delete September 2. Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report –

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$7,703.06 after approving \$500 for the Library last month.

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

4) Membership –

Chair Scalia noted the one vacancy on the Committee with Karen Chabot's resignation. He asked for recommendations from Committee members; noting the appointee would fulfill Ms. Chabot's term (approximately one year). Chair Scalia pointed out in the past the Committee has had membership from both Antioch and the Historical Society; the Committee currently has none. Mr. Hay suggested members of the clergy such as Michael Hall or Bill Beardslee. Chair Scalia agreed

to approach Pastor Beardslee and Bob Sweet. Mr. Hay will reach out to the other individuals. Each will report back at the next meeting. Chair Scalia stressed the importance of searching for potential members that are willing to give the time necessary to accomplish the Committee's goals.

5) Library Event Update –

Mr. Hay reported he attended the Chautauqua noting it was very well done and moving. Chair Scalia agreed. Chair Scalia also reported the event was well attended. Chair Scalia noted Franklin Pierce is looking to bring the gentleman that played Malcolm X to the campus at a future date.

6) Our-Kids – Book Discussion Event

Chair Scalia reported Monadnock 2020 and KSC will be bring the author, Robert Putnam to campus in March. He continued Monadnock 2020 is looking to do a community read, pointing out the difference in their timeframe from the Committee's plans for next year. Chair Scalia asked for Committee response to breaking up the already discussed event and becoming the third partner in the Monadnock 2020/KSC event. He also reported he has approached Rudy Fedrizzi to see if he would like to address the Committee. Chair Scalia clarified the Committee would be the third partner in this March event, and continue plans with the School system in the fall. Committee members posed no objections to this suggestion even though it does alter what the Committee was originally thinking. Chair Scalia reiterated the Committee's decision at the last meeting to focus on income and equality which fits in with the "Our Kids" read. Chair Scalia agreed to contact Rudy Fedrizzi and KSC regarding their attendance at the November meeting.

Chair Scalia also reported Ms. Everard is reading "Hold Fast" by Blue Balliett, and she may be ready to report on it at the next meeting.

7) Brainstorming Events –

1. Chair Scalia brought forth Mr. Bohannon's idea that the Committee considers doing a bus trip to Washington, DC. The trip would include a visit to the Human Rights Porch, at the National Cathedral (Jonathan Daniels sculpture), and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Committee members discussed the idea and agreed it was worth looking into. The following questions/comments were provided.

- Would community members be invited and would there be a cost to them?
- An overnight hotel stay would be required.
- Who would drive the City van?
- What the cost would be and when would this happen?

Chair Scalia will invite Mr. Bohannon to the next meeting for further discussion. He summarized for next year the Committee is looking at potentially partnering with Monadnock 2020/KSC, a community read (5th graders), doing an event with the Wallace's, and a potential road trip to Washington, DC.

8) New Business -

1. Chair Scalia reported on a piece of news that came up through the Southern Poverty Law Center. Alabama is closing 30 county offices that issue voter identifications (financial restraints). Nineteen of these offices are in the black belt which is where Jonathan Daniels did a lot of his

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work. Chair Scalia clarified black belt is not a racial term; it comes from the black soil found in the area.

2. Ms. Morris reported on a statewide Teach-In on race and race relations across New Hampshire. There are three areas of focus education, political action, and criminal justice. The event will take place on October 24, 2015 at Revere University in Nashua. Registration is at 8:30 AM and the cost is \$20/\$10 for students. Ms. Morris will email the link to Committee members.

3. Chair Scalia reported he was approached with the idea to challenge (public awareness campaign) the Monadnock region to have the largest voter turnout in the state; in honor of Jonathan Daniels and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to voting rights. He was asked if the Committee would be interested in spearheading this community challenge. This can be discussed at the next meeting to determine whether or not there is an interest.

9) Adjourn-

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 5:42 PM.

Next meeting: November 4, 2015

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall
Minute Taker
October 8, 2015