

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Derek Scalia, Chair
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair
Yves Gakunde
Mandi Slate
Dottie Morris
Ella MacDonald
Melanie Everard (Late)

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director Parks & Rec

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Roll call was conducted and Chair Scalia welcomed Bob Sweet as a guest.

2) Approval of Minutes – November 4, 2015

Ms. Slate made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 4, 2015 as submitted. Mr. Gakunde seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report –

Mr. Bohannon reported the current balance is \$7,703.06; no changes from the previous month.

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

4) Membership –

Chair Scalia apologized for not making it to City Hall to verify the term length for Ms. Chabot's replacement. He reiterated that Wednesday's are bad for everyone he approached. Mr. Hay noted he is waiting to hear from Michael Hall.

Mr. Bohannon referred to the Mayor's reappointment list noting this is the time to either confirm or deny individual reappointments.

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- Bill Hay new term expires 2018 – no objections posed.
- Melanie Everard new term expires 2018 (2nd term) - no objections posed.
- Karen Chabot – Mr. Bohannon will verify a signed letter of resignation was received. If so this does create a vacancy on the Committee.

Chair Scalia noted Mr. Sweet is interested in serving on the Committee but does go away for four months out of the year.

5) Our Kids Book Discussion Event Update – No update at this point.

6) Children’s Book Update –

Ms. Everard reported she finished reading the book; adding it is kind of a mystery with regards to the father. Ms. Everard has spoken to the 5th grade teachers at her school, and needs to present her idea at a Principal’s Meeting (start working through the administration). Ms. Everard would then start writing a grant to purchase the books. Ms. Everard also indicated she would like to find readers to come into the schools and read the book to the students. Ms. Everard will give the book to Ms. Ancharski tomorrow.

7) Washington D.C. Update –

Mr. Bohannon reported he contacted several places as well as doing internal costs for the vans. He continued we can offer a trip through the Recreation Center, reiterating the gathering would not be considered a quorum. The breakdown is as follows for a 3 day trip (Friday-Sunday):

- Cost of van \$50 per person based on two vans (no more than 8-10 per van)
- Cathedral \$13 per person
- Monuments are free
- 2 nights in the city \$350 single occupancy
- No meals included

Mr. Bohannon reported the same trip on a Wilson bus would cost \$4,700 plus lodging of the driver and gratuity.

Mr. Bohannon also spoke with Norma Jean Pinney (Thomas Transportation) who could put something together (customize a trip). If the Historical Society is interested in a similar trip it would be easy to fill the bus. Mr. Bohannon did not know what the costs would be.

Mr. Bohannon spoke with Best of Times who also has options to choose from.

- Standardized trip: itinerary already established, other Recreation Centers participate. This is a four day trip, includes six meals, and a dinner theatre. Cost is \$519-\$549; the 20% commission rate could come back to the Committee.
- We could also customize a trip for the three days as planned with the itinerary discussed previously.

Discussion ensued regarding the itinerary, lodging, timeframe, purpose, and costs with the Committee agreeing on the following:

- To pursue doing a bus trip in tandem with the Historical Society for three days encompassing September 30th through October 2nd.

Mr. Bohannon will come back with different proposals at the next meeting.

8) Voter Turn out Update-

This subcommittee will meet at Prime Roast on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 4:00 PM. They will make a presentation at the January 2016 meeting.

9) New Business –

1. Chair Scalia reported the Interfaith Clergy group has missed the deadline to apply for funding (MLK Breakfast).

2. Bob Sweet asked if this Committee could make a public comment around the refugee issue. Chair Scalia noted the Committee has held forums in the Library on issues the community has struggled with. Mr. Bohannon commented if this is a topic the Committee may want to address you (the Committee) can write an Informational Memo to the City Council stating that the Committee wants to acknowledge that this is a topic of discussion relating to the purpose of the MLK, Jr./JD Committee. Mr. Bohannon further explained the Memo in the Council packet is a public document. Ms. Everard indicated she was thinking along the lines of a Letter to the Editor signed by the Committee members; addressing what would Jonathan Daniels or Martin Luther King have done in this case. Mr. Gakunde asked if Council approval was required first; Mr. Bohannon agreed to research this and report back.

Discussion continued with Chair Scalia asking if the Committee was interested in writing a draft Informational Memo to the City Council. Mr. Sweet agreed to work with Ms. Everard to compose a first draft. This draft will be circulated to Committee members for input.

Mr. Sweet also asked if it was going too far for the Committee to ask the City Council to declare Keene as an open city or something similar in terms of refugees. Mr. Bohannon suggested this is similar to the Cambodian refugee situation in the 1970's; adding the memo might be crafted to suggest this.

3. Mr. Bohannon reported both he and Ms. Spaulding will be absent from the January 6, 2016 meeting.

Ms. Everard moved to reschedule the meeting for January 13, 2016. Mr. Gakunde seconded the motion which carried unanimously; the meeting location to be determined.

Chair Scalia noted the yearly meeting schedule and elections should also be addressed at the January meeting.

10) Adjourn-

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Next meeting: January 13, 2016

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall

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Minute Taker
December 3, 2015