

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

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

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

**5:00 PM**

**Trustee's Room, Library**

**Members Present:**

Derek Scalia, Chair  
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair  
Melanie Everard  
Ella MacDonald  
Dottie Morris

**Staff Present:**

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

**Others Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Mandi Slate  
Karen Chabot  
Yves Gakunde

**1) Call to Order and Roll Call -**

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

**2) Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2015**

Ms. Everard made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2015 as submitted. Mr. Hay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3) Finance Report –**

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$8,203.06.

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

**4) Keene Public Library Sponsorship Request –**

Chair Scalia addressed the request for \$500.00 to assist with needs for the Chautauqua that will be taking place on Thursday, September 10, 2015, at Heberton Hall.

Ms. Everard motioned to approve the Keene Public Library Sponsorship request in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**5) Membership-**

Chair Scalia reported that Karen Chabot has submitted her resignation. We are waiting on

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confirmation of her resignation by City Council. In the absence of Ms. Chabot the Committee will be seeking to another member. Chair Scalia noted he has spoken to Bob Sweet and is awaiting his decision. He requested any recommendations be forwarded to him or Ms. Spaulding.

**6) Public Art Update** – Nothing at this time.

**7) Book/Community Discussion Update** –

Chair Scalia referred to previous discussions on how the Committee could fulfill its mission after this commemorative year. The idea of a book community discussion was presented that would represent relevant issues facing Keene (income, inequality, and racism). The Committee has not been working on this idea. Ms. Everard is working with Nancy Ancharski to find a book appropriate for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Discussion continued and it was noted a fictional book for 5<sup>th</sup> graders with a relevant book for adults would be needed for the discussion.

The Committee agreed on income and inequality as the topic. Several books were suggested.

- Hunger Games by Suzanne Marie Collins
- Our Kids-The American Dream in Crisis by Robert Putnam

Chair Scalia will touch bases with Gail Zachariah as a resource for developing a book discussion. Committee members should bring their suggestions to the next meeting. Chair Scalia will report back on his discussion with Ms. Zachariah. The Committee will need to decide whether this event will be a book discussion or author presentation.

Chair Scalia also reported the book “Blood Brothers”, by Rich and Sandra Wallace will be available September 16, 2015 (middle school age level).

**8) New Business** -

Chair Scalia reported the Jonathan Daniels commemoration events were quite moving and well attended. He noted the interview with the Alabama Companions was videotaped. Chair Scalia commented on Ruby Sales and the important work done by Spirit House (soon to be published). He continued Ruby Sales and other members of Spirit House have been traveling around the country documenting state murders (gunned down or died mysteriously while in custody) of African Americans. So far they have documented 2,000 African American deaths.

Chair Scalia reported out on the pilgrimage to Hayneville, Alabama.

**9) Adjourn**-

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 5:28 PM.

**Next meeting:** September 2October 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall  
Minute Taker  
September 2, 2015

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