

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director Parks & Rec
Meghan Spaulding,

Members Not Present:

Ella MacDonald

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Roll call was conducted and Chair Scalia welcomed Rev. Michael Hall as a guest.

2) Approval of Minutes – December 02, 2015

Ms. Slate made a motion to adopt the minutes of December 02, 2015 as submitted. Mr. Gakunde seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report –

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

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

4) New Members –

Chair Scalia reported there will be a vacancy once Ms. Chabot's resignation goes through City Council. He also noted the importance of having a full Committee.

5) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair –

Ms. Slate nominated Derek Scalia to continue as Committee Chair. Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Scalia accepted the position.

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Ms. Slate nominated Bill Hay to continue as Committee Vice-Chair. Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Hay accepted the position.

6) Approval of Meeting Schedule 2016 –

Mr. Hay moved to adopt the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented. Ms. Slate seconded the motion which carried unanimously. There will be no July meeting.

7) I Vote in Honor of Jonathan Daniels Proposal –

Chair Scalia reported he and Ms. Slate met in December 2015 at which time they decided to present a digital campaign (email and social media) only. The goal is to get people out to vote in honor of Jonathan Daniels regardless of who they are voting for. Chair Scalia suggested after the primary the Committee could determine how to push this whenever there is an election.

Chair Scalia distributed copies of two different flyers for Committee review. After discussion the Committee decided to combine elements of both flyers. Mr. Bohannon will present the flyer to the City Attorney for review prior to it being distributed. Discussion ensued regarding distribution which will include emails, the American Democracy Project, a newspaper ad, and perhaps a spot on the radio.

Ms. Everard motioned to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$200 to place the flyer in the Sentinel after review by the City Attorney. Mr. Gakunde seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Committee members agreed the newspaper ad should be placed the week before the primary. Mr. Bohannon will contact the City Clerk's office for additional language (voting information). Mr. Bohannon will also notify members via email after the City Attorney's review of the flyer. In response to Rev. Hall's suggestion of putting the flyer in the Shopper, Mr. Bohannon noted it would depend on the cost, and advised he would search all the media mediums. The Committee will look at yard signs for the November timeframe.

8) Informational Memo-

Chair Scalia referred to the December 2105 discussion regarding the refugee crisis initiated by Bob Sweet. He reported Mr. Sweet and Ms. Everard drafted a letter which they submitted. Mr. Bohannon and Ms. Spaulding reviewed the letter and put it in the appropriate format for presentation to City Council. Chair Scalia distributed copies of this revised draft letter for review and comment by the Committee.

Ms. Everard made a motion for the Committee to direct staff to compile an informational letter to City Council. Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bohannon noted what he was trying to say is he wanted to let the Council know they established the Committee, this is our Mission, and we want them to be aware of these issues that are impacting our City that we discuss on a monthly basis. In addition we would like to see them be mindful of Jonathan Daniels and Martin Luther King, Jr. in their (City Council) practices.

Ms. Everard asked if this was in place of what Mr. Sweet had written. Mr. Bohannon replied in

the affirmative. Ms. Everard suggested Mr. Sweet's whole idea was to focus on the Syrian refugees, and she is unsure this letter addresses that. Mr. Bohannon noted he tried to highlight some of the social issues and racial tensions occurring now. Mr. Hay clarified it sets the stage for more specific issues later; Mr. Bohannon agreed. Chair Scalia asked if there were any specific changes/edits/additions. He also noted we can be more specific if the Committee feels it's needed. Chair Scalia noted he would be more comfortable just talking about all refugees; hoping that Keene was a safe and welcoming place for anyone seeking refuge. Mr. Gakunde suggested adding something at the end specifically addressing the Syrian refugees. Mr. Bohannon suggested something like "we feel that you should welcome not only these refugees but all refugees seeking independence", or something to that effect. Committee members liked this suggestion.

Ms. Morris recommended removing the reference to 2016 suggesting it doesn't feel connected. Discussion ensued regarding composing the letter to address multiple situations and avoid having to write them for every incident. Ms. Morris also suggested trying to connect it to Monadnock 2020.

Mr. Hay referred to the 3rd paragraph, 3rd line and suggested adding "by" after thoughts provided.

Ms. Morris asked for clarification; in a lot of ways we're saying that this Committee was put together for a specific reason, and now we're calling up on them (City Council) to live consistent with principles (reasons) why this Committee was put together. Congruency between what we say we do and what we're planning to do. Mr. Bohannon replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Bohannon noted he would make the changes per discussion and sent the revised draft off to either Chair Scalia or Ms. Everard for review before sending it off to City Council. He suggested having it completed for Council's first meeting of 2016 which would be more impactful. Committee members agreed that Mr. Bohannon should work on the letter in preparation for presentation at the Council's first 2016 meeting. Mr. Bohannon also suggested adding something at the end noting the Committee's efforts with getting people out to vote. Committee members were also in favor of this suggestion.

9) Washington D.C. Trip Update –

Mr. Bohannon reported Thomas Transportation did put out a schedule for a September trip. This is a four-day excursion and no prices have been posted yet. He will bring an update to the next meeting.

10) New Business-

1. Rev. Hall distributed copies of the flyer for the 5th Annual Dr. King Breakfast to be held Monday, January 18, 2016, 8:30 AM, at the St. George's Church. The Committee is listed as a partner on the flyer. He also distributed copies of the event press release. Rev. Hall outlined the event and this year's focus. Rev. Hall also suggested the Clergy and Monadnock Interfaith groups might be willing to help distribute the Committee's voting flyer. Rev. Hall asked if someone from the Committee would like to speak at the event. Mr. Bohannon asked Rev. Hall to forward him the flyer via email so he could distribute it to City Council members. Rev. Hall indicated he has interest in serving on the Committee.

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2. Ms. Everard announced the Keene Chamber Orchestra will be putting on a concert. The concert is scheduled for February 13th and 14th, at the Monadnock Covenant Church.

11) Adjourn-

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Next meeting: February 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall
Minute Taker
January 16, 2016