

City of Keene
New Hampshire

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr./JONATHAN DANIELS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

5:00 PM

Trustees Room, Public Library

Members Present:

Bill Hay, Chair
Mandi Slate
Ella MacDonald
Yves Gakunde
Rev. Michael Hall (Arrived at 5:05 PM)

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

Members Not Present:

Melanie Everard
Dottie Morris

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and conducted roll call.

2) Approval of Minutes- June 1, 2016

Mr. Gakunde made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2016, which was seconded by Ms. Slate and carried unanimously.

3) Financial Report

Ms. Spaulding reported a balance of \$8,762.66. The balance remains the same as it was in June.

Ms. Slate made a motion to accept the financial report, which was seconded by Mr. Gakunde and carried unanimously.

4) Membership

Ms. Spaulding indicated she will reach out to Mr. Perry to find a new student representative. Chair Hay indicated he spoke with Mr. Perry who agreed to look for a student. Chair Hay suggested Noah Ramirez who will be a junior, but his family may be moving out of Keene. Ms. Slate mentioned her daughter who will also be a junior as an option.

Ms. Spaulding added that they also need a replacement for Mr. Scalia. Chair Hay mentioned Bill Beardslee but noted he expressed concern about scheduling. Ms. Slate noted that many names have come up and it would be helpful to have a working list. Ms. Spaulding noted any information on candidates should be sent to her via email so that she can send them an invitation letter.

5) DC Trip Update

Ms. Spaulding informed the Committee that because the required 40 seats have not been filled for the 30 day deadline, the trip has been canceled. She indicated that Mr. Bohannon wants to try again next year with more time to advertise. There was expressed interest but no one signed up, including Committee members.

Mr. Gakunde asked if they should send an email letting people know the trip has been canceled or put an announcement in the Paycheck News. Ms. Spaulding replied that if people call to inquire she will explain the cancellation but she does not want to advertise the cancellation.

6) New Business

Ms. Slate asked Chair Hay if he had spoken with Rudy Fedrizzi. Chair Hay replied no. Mr. Gakunde offered to speak with Mr. Fedrizzi the next day. Ms. Slate asked if the author came to town already and Chair Hay replied yes.

Chair Hay indicated that with the upcoming elections he hopes they can have a Get Out the Vote initiative, particularly as Jonathan Daniels died trying to register people to vote. He indicated that September 13 is the NH Primary and many people do not have knowledge about that election. He said there is plenty of time with three weeks between college starting and the Primary followed by eight weeks until the General election. There will be a lot of election activity at Franklin Pierce and KSC and it would be good for the Committee to support that. He said he does not know if it is worth another advertisement in the Sentinel and indicated the last ad they had in the paper was illegible. Ms. Spaulding clarified if he wanted to promote the Primary or General election. Chair Hay indicated there is a lot of knowledge about the General election but not as much for the Primary so that would be beneficial to advertise.

Mr. Gakunde asked if the last ad went through City Hall. Ms. Spaulding indicated that Mr. Scalia made the advertisement, the committee approved it and the budget, and she sent it as a PDF to the Sentinel.

Chair Hay indicated the next Committee meeting is only one week before the Primary and they will want the ad out in time for people to register. Ms. Spaulding indicated she will need to find out the registration deadline from the City Clerk. Mr. Gakunde suggested voting on the budget today. Ms. Slate suggested submitting a letter to the editor instead of an advertisement as a more cost effective and visible option. Chair Hay

supported that idea. Mr. Gakunde questioned if they will be able to choose the date a letter to the editor runs. Ms. Slate indicated she believes it will run quickly after submission. Mr. Gakunde asked how much the last ad cost. Ms. Spaulding noted \$190.40 for a three-day ad. Mr. Gakunde indicated he was in favor of the letter to the editor. Ms. Slate stated she is willing to work on a draft of the letter for input from the rest of the Committee.

Rev. Hall asked if college students are able to register here in town. Ms. Spaulding replied yes, they just have to show a local utility bill. Rev. Hall added that there is a publication the Sentinel sends to college students that they seek advertisements for and that could be a good place to advertise as well. Chair Hay added that he hopes the party representative groups at both colleges will be advertising the elections as well. Ms. Slate suggested getting those groups contact information to reach out to them. She also suggested the TV news at KSC might like to do an interview with a Committee member. Rev. Hall suggested Chris Coates' radio show would be a good venue to talk about MLK Jr. and Jonathan Daniels and the need to increase NH voters. Only 27% of voters registered in NH actually vote. Mr. Gakunde questioned if the Clerk's Office has ideas on how to increase the number of people who both register and vote as some people just do not know their polling station. Ms. Spaulding suggested even getting the Clerk's Office to help but noted that they are busy.

Chair Hay questioned if voters can still register at the polls. Ms. Spaulding replied no, there is a deadline to register at City Hall; you have to register there and that helps make sure people know their polling station.

Chair Hay continued that they are ruling out an ad and writing a letter to the editor of the Sentinel. Ms. Slate made a motion that she draft a letter to the editor of the Keene Sentinel and will receive Committee feedback via Ms. Spaulding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gakunde. Ms. Spaulding reminded the Committee of the rules of conducting business via email. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hay continued with another item of new business. He indicated the Jonathan Daniels School is now formally closed even though the building is still used. There has been discussion of renaming Keene High School to Jonathan Daniels High School, especially as it is now a regional school. He has made some calls to find out the procedure of such a renaming and believes it is a school board decision as the school is not City owned. Ms. Spaulding agreed. Chair Hay mentioned he had a discussion with Bob Perry about the logistics that would be involved, such as branding. Ms. Slate questioned if the preschool housed in that building is still using the Jonathan Daniels name. Chair Hay will inquire about these questions with the school board.

Rev. Hall noted that September 25 is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. He said although it is a political topic, because both of these men were killed by guns it could be another opportunity to speak on the history and the tragedy of gun violence. Ms. Slate suggested another letter to the editor or use of social media with images they have access to. Rev. Hall suggested a press release to see if people are interested. Chair Hay

MLK/JD Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2016

indicated it is something all Committee members can work toward individually to raise awareness as citizens.

Chair Hay reminded everyone to keep thinking of possible Committee candidates. They noted that the candidate must be a resident of Keene.

7) Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 5:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Katie Kibler, Minute Taker