

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Derek Scalia, Chair
Mandi Slate
Karen Chabot
Dottie Morris (Late)

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Rec. Programmer

Others Present:

Emily Hague, Councilor (Late)

Members Not Present:

Ella MacDonald
Melanie Everard
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair

1) Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Scalia welcomed Yves Gakunde, as a perspective member representing Antioch University; along with Barbara Woods (guest).

2) Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2015

Ms. Slate a made a motion to accept the minutes of January 6, 2015 as submitted. Ms. Chabot seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report -

Ms. Spaulding reported all invoices have been paid; the current balance is \$7,171.18.

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

4) Updates-

a) January 7 report to Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee – Chair Scalia noted he reported on what this Committee did last year and those specific events this Committee has committed resources to for this year.

b) January 15 Proclamation- Chair Scalia reported the Mayor read the Proclamation on this date. He will get the Proclamation to Ms. Spaulding for display at the Recreation Center.

c) January 15 Created Equal Program- Ms. Slate reported there was a decent group of attendees. She noted the speaker did a great job; adding she was surprised to learn that Dr. King really wasn't much of a public speaker prior to his position of leadership. Ms. Slate reported this was an excellent opportunity to interact with people around you. Brochures were distributed.

d) January 19 MLK Breakfast- Chair Scalia reported the event was a smashing success; attendance was higher than last year. Councilor Hague read the Proclamation and brochures were distributed. Committee members agreed it was an inspiring presentation.

5) Upcoming Events -

a) February 12 Created Equal Program: The Loving Story Film and Discussion- Chair Scalia reported this event will begin at 6 PM with a community dinner followed by the film/discussion at the Library. The film is about the Loving family, and interracial couple whose marriage spearheaded the Supreme Court case that ruled a ban on interracial marriages was unconstitutional.

b) March 20 JD Birthday – Chair Scalia noted that Jonathan Daniels would have been 76 years old this year. He added this is the date we are hoping to send out the card/letter to anyone on the Committee's mailing list. The sub-committee will need to discuss the timeline and target audience for this mailing.

c) April 10-May 1 Icon Exhibit – Chair Scalia encouraged member attendance noting the icon artist will be presenting at the Cheshire County Historical Society. The St. James Committee has requested member contact information so they can provide invitations to Committee members. Chair Scalia noted the exhibit is free for anyone.

d) August 22 Colonial Theatre Event- Chair Scalia reported the St. James Committee continues to work very hard to get prominent civil rights figures to attend. Father Morrisroe's presence has been confirmed; he was shot in the back at the same time Jonathan Daniels was murdered. No confirmation has been received regarding the presence of Congressman John Lewis at the event. The St. James Committee will meet again next Monday, at 10 AM; Committee members are welcome to attend.

6) Fundraising Sub-Committee Report –

Chair Scalia reported the sub-committee did not meet; a discussion is needed to develop a timeline for sending out the letters informing supporters of this Committee. Ms. Slate asked about the list the Committee was working on. Chair Scalia recommended a list of those who previously served on this Committee be compiled and then verify who is still in the area. Ms. Spaulding reported she has the list of previous members prepared by the City Clerk's office. Chair Scalia noted his apprehension about using the previous list. He also noted his discomfort in sending information to individuals who have not requested it. Committee members will work with the previous member list and continue to create a new database. Chair Scalia suggested 50 people on the list was a good first step.

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Ms. Chabot noted no donation (\$750) was received from the St. James Thrift Shop this year; she asked if the Committee sent a letter to them asking for donations in previous years. Committee members were unsure that a request had ever been sent; Ms. Spaulding agreed to check into this. Discussion continued with Committee members agreeing a letter could be sent to the St. James Thrift Shop and C& S (as past donors).

Discussion ensued with regards to the printing costs for the letter/brochure and birthday card (100 copies on cardstock). Councilor Hague indicated this may be covered by the City. Mr. Gakunde indicated the Library could take care of this printing; Ms. Spaulding also suggested the Recreation Center for the printing. No Committee vote on expenditure of funds was needed.

Ms. Chabot suggested printing a “Thank You” card for donations received. Chair Scalia agreed to write a draft “thank you” letter for the Committee to review and approve. Chair Scalia will forward the documents discussed to Mr. Gakunde. Councilor Hague agreed to look into postage being covered by the City as well, she will report back at the next meeting. Ms. Chabot suggested the documents also be sent via email. Ms. Spaulding will check on sending out a blast email and use of the “Paycheck News”. Chair Scalia suggested this might be just to inform people of what’s going on; rather than asking for donations. Chair Scalia will forward the documents to Ms. Spaulding.

7) Looking Ahead – Planning for 2016 Brainstorming a Vision

Chair Scalia recommended the Committee start thinking about how to use the leverage from this year (big event year) to 2016 which will not have as many commemorations. He suggested the Public Arts Project.

Ms. Woods made note of the education component in the Committee’s mission statement. She reported there are many people in the community who can educate and communicate processes for non-violence. Ms. Woods teaches the non-violent communication model. She also pointed out the “Keene Listens” group as a civic engagement model.

Dovetailing off of the education piece, Ms. Slate reported the release date for Sandra Wallace’s book is 2016. She noted the potential solicitation of PTA’s to have an author’s visit. Ms. Slate suggested this is something the Committee could focus on for 2016.

Councilor Hague reported being approached by a gentleman from the Middle School after the breakfast; his concern was with social injustices happening in our school system now (students acting violently against each other). Committee members agreed Councilor Hague should invite the gentleman to a meeting. Ms. Slate noted the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention has education pieces on preventing bullying. She agreed to reach out to them to see where their Education Department is at this point. Ms. Woods suggested that “Peace Week” if still happening is a good place to present some information.

Ms. Morris pointed out there are many models out there that work with staff and students. She distributed copies of “The Beloved Community” Keene State College celebration of diversity events schedule for 2015. Ms. Morris reported that Selma is being held over until March 2, 2015 and students from the Middle and High Schools are being invited. Ms. Morris will be meeting

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with Vicky (no last name given) and two KSC staff members to develop this program. She welcomed any suggestions or input from this Committee.

In response to Chair Scalia, Councilor Hague reported the Public Arts Project could be something for 2015; with fundraising being the biggest issue. She suggested the group would take on fundraising and applying for grants. Councilor Hague reported on the 1% for Art program here in New Hampshire; noting there is no art in the new courthouse. The Public Art group will meet next Monday.

8) New Business – Nothing at this time.

9) Adjourn- Next meeting date is March 4, 2015

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall
Minute Taker
February 5, 2015