

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Derek Scalia, Chair
Karen Chabot
Melanie Everard
Ella MacDonald
Bill Hay, Vice-Chair
Dottie Morris (Late)

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Rec. Programmer

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

Mandi Slate

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Scalia called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Scalia welcomed Yves Gakunde, as a perspective member representing Antioch University; along with Barbara Woods and Gail Zachariah (guests).

2) Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2015

Ms. Chabot made a motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2015 as submitted. Ms. Everard seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report -

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$7,171.18. She noted this balance does not include the Thrift Shop donation of \$750; which is in the process of being accepted by City Council.

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

4) Donation and Adoption of 2015 Meeting Schedule- Meghan Spaulding

Ms. Everard motioned to adopt the meeting schedule as presented on Page 6 of the packet. Ms. Chabot seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

As Ms. Barakat, representing MONIFF was not present the Committee moved to agenda item #6.

6) Created Equal Update – Gail Zachariah

Chair Scalia noted this partnership with the Library has been going on for a year and a half. He introduced Ms. Zachariah who reported four films have been shown to date. Ms. Zachariah noted attendance was down at the last film due to the snow. She indicated an additional film will be shown in the summer with the Changing America Program. With regards to the exhibit, Ms. Zachariah noted the dates as June 24th through August 7th. She noted the requirement to hold an opening. Ms. Zachariah distributed copies of the three programs she has developed thus far.

- The Proper Ladies Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM
- Freedom Summer Discussion Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM
- Changing America Comics Workshop with Marek Bennett Saturday, July 28, 2015 at 11:00 AM

Ms. Zachariah also indicated she was still working on the Chataugua for September. She noted there will be a Martin Luther King, but who he is with has not been determined yet.

Chair Scalia clarified the standing exhibit would be here at the Library and available for viewing during Library hours. Ms. Zachariah concurred. She continued she is not asking the Committee for any support at this time, but, may at some time ask for assistance with refreshments which are hard to get with the grants.

5) MONIFF – Sponsorship Request

Chair Scalia referred to the request from MONIFF, included as Page 7, in the packet. He noted the request is for \$500 which would be going towards the Jonathan Daniels award.

Laina Barakat, of MONIFF distributed copies of the sponsorship brochure. She noted this is the third year for the festival and explained how the Jonathan Daniels award came into being part of the event. Continuing, Ms. Barakat noted that because this is the anniversary year they have also applied for a grant from the NH Humanities Council, and will be having eight films and discussions during the month of March through the beginning of April. All events are free to the public and will be held in Keene, Peterborough, and Jaffrey. Ms. Barakat noted this year they will also be giving Larry Benaquist and Bill Sullivan Honorary Jonathan Daniels awards. This year there will be two panel discussions; one on film and the second on Jonathan Daniels. In response to Chair Scalia, Ms. Barakat indicated she would provide him with the names of the speakers for the Jonathan Daniels panel to ensure there is no overlap with this Committee's August event.

Chair Scalia reviewed the past opportunities for this Committee, noting the opportunities have waned a little bit. Ms. Barakat explained the Committee can have the half page ad for the \$500 and the option is there to distribute information and setup a display. Ms. Barakat also indicated she would love to have a member of the Committee speak at the award ceremony. She also indicated the Committee name could be displayed on the screen with other groups before the screening.

Chair Scalia outlined the request process, noting it won't be voted on until the April 1st meeting; which means the Committee won't meet MONIFF's print deadline (ineligible for the half page ad). In response to Mr. Hay, Ms. Barakat advised all the events are listed on the webpage, individual events are listed on Facebook, and the event schedule will appear in both the Sentinel and the Shopper this week.

7) Colonial Theatre Update –

Chair Scalia reported commitments have been received from Ruby Sales, Father Richard Morrisroe, and Gloria House (all three were present with Jonathan Daniels when he was killed). Confirmation from Congressman John Lewis is still pending. Chair Scalia outlined the way the program will run; speaker, screening of the film. He noted that Larry Benaquist has the only copy of Jonathan Daniels sermon at St. James Church and this will also be incorporated into the event. Chair Scalia reiterated the event is free. The next St. James Committee meeting will be held on March 23rd, at 10:00 AM (location TBD); Committee members are welcome to attend.

8) Fundraising –

Chair Scalia distributed copies of the draft birthday card and letter for review. He noted the changes he made.

- Removed the “ask” from the birthday card so it will serve as a commemoration to Jonathan Daniels 76th birthday, on March 20th.
- Used the brochure created for other events, changed the first page to include a brief letter.
- Added the “ask” as a detachable section to the brochure.

Committee members posed no opposition to the draft documents. Chair Scalia asked for comments and/or corrections the Committee would like to see. He reiterated the decision from last month’s meeting to send this out only to past supporters/past Committee members. Ms. Spaulding agreed to send the list via email to all Committee members for review. The recommended changes were:

- Brochure: Bold the text “send to the Rec Center” on the ask
- Underline “send to Rec Center” in the letter section
- On the birthday card, remove the apostrophe after Daniels

Chair Scalia will forward the corrected documents to Mr. Gakunde for printing at the Library.

As Councilor Hague was not present to report on the City covering postage costs, Ms. Spaulding agreed to look into this tomorrow. In the event postage can’t be covered by the City the Committee made the following motion.

Ms. Chabot made a motion to approve expenditure of up to fifty dollars to cover the costs of mailing up to 65 Jonathan Daniels birthday cards. Mr. Hay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Ms. Chabot suggested having the brochure at St. James Church for pickup after mass. Chair Scalia agreed to bring this up at the group’s next meeting.

9) 2016 Event Planning and Brainstorming-

Chair Scalia continued from last month’s discussion “where do we go from here” for 2016 event planning. In review, he noticed some events with crossover; Ms. Wood’s event “Keene Listens” and events brought up by Councilor Hague that address issues in the community; specifically in the schools. Chair Scalia reported Sandra and Rich Wallace are in the stages of completing their book which now has a release date of August 2016 (this can no longer be pursued as an event for 2015). Ms. Morris also distributed copies “Keene State College Celebrates Diversity” schedule of

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events for review. Chair Scalia suggested Committee members look into the ideas presented to discuss at the next meeting which ones the Committee will pursue.

Ms. Everard mentioned a musical event held at Jonathan Daniels School last year; she indicated she would be willing to bring forth the information on the tenor who performed to the next meeting.

Chair Scalia recommended the Committee be mindful to also add Martin Luther King, Jr. components to future events/programs. Mr. Hay asked if there are ways to publicize more of what the Committee is doing. Ms. Woods suggested the Dan Mitchell morning radio talk show. Chair Scalia agreed to reach out to Mr. Mitchell to see if he would do a segment on the Committee. Chair Scalia also noted for the Colonial Theatre event, the St. James Committee will be handling the publicity; he will advocate for them to tell what this Committee does.

10) New Business

1. Barbara Woods reported on a non-violent communication, one day workshop that she is working on for June. She indicated she may be requesting support from this Committee in the form of mailing a flyer. Chair Scalia advised he would send the request form to Ms. Woods, and that she should have it back to the Committee by March 20th, to be considered at the April meeting.
2. Mr. Gakunde' nomination for appointment to this Committee is on the City Council agenda for this Thursday's meeting.

11) Adjourn- Next meeting April 1, 2015

Chair Scalia adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.

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