

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Bill Hay, Chair
Melanie Everard, Vice-Chair (Late)
Jan Manwaring

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer
Andrew Bohannon, Parks & Rec. Director

Members Not Present:

Dottie Morris

Councilors Present

Margaret Rice

Mayor Kendall Lane

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM. Roll call was conducted. He welcomed Nancy Salwen who is interested in the Committee and Jan Manwaring as a new member. Also present was Margaret Rice, Councilor and two KSC students covering the meeting for their Journalism class.

2) Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2018

Ms. Manwaring motioned to approve the minutes of January 3, 2018 as submitted. Ms. Everard seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report –

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$9,262.66 which includes the annual donation from St. James Thrift Shop of \$750.00.

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

After Mayor Lane's presentation Mr. Bohannon provided a history of the Committee's finances which include money from the Kingsbury Fund and two annual donations; one from the City (\$500) and the other from the St. James Thrift Shop (\$750). Mr. Bohannon explained how the Committee has become a fiscal agent for other organizations in the City. Mr. Bohannon concluded his comments by recommending the Committee no longer be a fiscal agent for other groups. He explained the Committee may have things it wants to do after the reorganization.

4) Guest- Mayor Lane

Mayor Lane referred to the Committee's role within the community and pointed out the City of

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Keene does not have a Human Rights Committee. He said this is something that broadens the perspective of the MLK/JD Committee which is to foster social equity and would give the Committee a higher profile/bigger role in the community. Mayor Lane noted concerns about racial diversity, gender equality, racial tolerance all of which fit within the realm of social equality. Mayor Lane said he is here to ask the Committee to consider expanding their role to become a MLK/JD/Human Rights Committee. This would entail changing the Committee name, expanding the Charge, and increasing the membership.

Mayor Lane reported reaching out to Laconia where they have a Human Rights Committee to look at their dynamics and accomplishments. He continued if the Committee agrees to take on this task Laconia at least provides a template for what you can accommodate. One of Laconia's recent conversations dealt with immigration and how to support it going forward (housing, transportation, schools, medical facilities).

For a few years the City has also been part of an organization that does a Human Rights Campaign annually in 300 communities around the country. Mayor Lane continued each community is rated annually on how they are doing towards Social Equity issues. The ratings are based on criteria to a score of 100; in 2016 Keene was rated at 37, and in 2017 at 44. Mayor Lane shared scores higher and lower for other communities throughout the state (2018 MEI Standards for Credit). He noted this year anti-bullying and religious tolerance issues were added. Mayor Lane continued this could be template for use should the Committee decide in favor of this proposal. In the interest of time, Mr. Bohannon agreed staff would explain the criteria scoring and provide background on the campaign at the next meeting.

Mayor Lane noted he would like the Committee to start a conversation to see if they are interested in becoming a Human Rights Committee. Chair Hay and Ms. Everard agreed the idea is exciting and timely. Mayor Lane also reported conversations with Antioch and KSC. He reported Dottie Morris is also excited about the idea. In response to Ms. Everard Mayor Lane said it would take a couple of months to pull things together (new name, expand the Charge and membership). Mr. Bohannon noted various groups in the community whose representatives could help fulfill the membership expansion. He also explained the work taking place to restructure other City Committees. Mayor Lane said he would speak to Elsa Worth. Chair Hay also mentioned the other Jonathan Daniels group at the Historical Society.

As the discussion concluded the MLK/JD Committee agreed by consensus to support Mayor Lane's proposal and embrace the idea of being a Human Rights Committee.

Due to the Committee's decision agenda items 5 and 6 will be put on hold until the restructuring is completed. Mayor Lane noted questions to be answered include how many members will be on the Committee and what constitutes a quorum. Chair Hay thanked the Mayor for bringing this forward.

5) Membership

6) Election of Officers-

7) Vote on 2018 Meeting Calendar

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After discussion Committee members agreed there was no need to change the date and time of the meetings at this time. Meetings are held every month on the first Wednesday, at 5:00 PM, in the Trustee's Room of the Library.

Ms. Manwaring motioned to approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented. Ms. Everard seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8) Author/Book Update

Ms. Everard provided an outline for those new to the Committee. Susan Meyers, author of "New Shoes" and "Skating with the Statue of Liberty" will be coming in May. She also reported Julie Odatto, the Franklin School Librarian, has taken over the program. The Committee has voted to use \$2,000 of their budget to cover the event. The Committee will also be purchasing a number of books for the school Library/each class room. Chair Hay and Ms. Everard explained the books subject matter.

9) New Business – None at this time.

10) Adjourn-

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Next meeting date: May 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker
April 5, 2018