

**City of Keene
New Hampshire**

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

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andrew Bohannon, Parks & Rec. Director

Members Not Present:

1) Call to Order and Roll Call -

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM. Roll call was conducted.

2) Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2018

Ms. Manwaring motioned to approve the minutes of April 4 2018 as submitted. Ms. Everard seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report –

Mr. Bohannon reported a current balance of \$9,762.66 which includes \$500 from the City.

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

4) Walldogs – Peter Poanessa and Georgia Cassimatis

Mr. Poanessa reported a group of people have gotten together to build on the idea of having a mural festival in Keene. It is being called the “A Magical History Tour” because these festivals are all about the local history. The subject matter is something the community will provide the artists. Mr. Poanessa gave an overview noting this is a four day festival with a couple of hundred artists from all over the world come and paint these murals in Keene. A piece of the community’s involvement is to house and feed the artists while here. Mr. Poanessa outlined the other activities noting the painting takes place in the alleyways and backs of buildings. He noted there would be approximately 12-15 murals being painted. Mr. Poanessa added after the festival is over the town is left with this art gallery that is a very effective economic driver for tourism. When the festival is over we will be making it into a walking tour with a brochure and maybe a phone application, and integrating some of the existing murals into that tour. Each mural will have a bronze plaque containing information.

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Mr. Poanessa explained the ideas for the murals are taken from the public; we have a research team that provides a short list of themes to the designers. The Walldogs maintain control of the design. The research committee here consists of Alan Rumrill, Carl Jacobs, and Anita Carroll-Weldon. Once the list of themes is decided on the committee will put together packets of information that will go to the lead designer of each mural. The designers will come up with the design based on the wall they are assigned to.

Ms. Cassimatis said Jonathan Daniels is a Keene icon and at the top of list as far as mural subjects go. She asked how his group could work with the Committee on this project and if the Committee would like to sponsor a mural. Ms. Cassimatis showed a five-minute video from the Kewanee, Illinois project and distributed a catalog of the Walldogs work for review.

Mr. Poanessa continued the festival has been held in the United States for the past 25 years (approximately 750 murals). He explained the first walls they will focus on are any of the walls as you enter the downtown area. The discussion continued with Mr. Poanessa noting they have trademarked the "A Magical History Tour" as each festival has its own name. Their storefront is open and they do have a website and Facebook page. The event is planned for June 19-23, 2019. He also noted they have not yet approached the building owners and will be going before City Council tomorrow.

Mr. Bohannon asked if they would be asking City Council for funding. Mr. Poanessa replied in the negative. Mr. Bohannon explained he has recommended the Committee no longer be a fiscal agent for other organizations and provided his reasoning. Discussion continued with Mr. Bohannon suggesting this could be the last event the Committee sponsors as there is a great deal of interest from Committee members. Ms. Cassimatis commented on the need for volunteers, in-kind and cash donations. Mr. Bohannon agreed to forward Mr. Poanessa the appropriate forms to present to the Committee. The Committee will discuss the request at the next meeting. With Mr. Bohannon noting past inequities Ms. Morris suggested a conditional sponsorship to protect the Committee's interest should the Jonathan Daniels mural not make the cut.

5) Human Rights Committee Update- Andy Bohannon

Mr. Bohannon advised he would present an outline at the next meeting.

6) Meeting Space Change- Parks & Recreation Center Room 12

Due to the Library construction project the Committee will meet at the Parks & Rec building, Room 12 next month. Should this location not workout the Committee can look at City Hall for future meetings.

7) Book Author Program

Ms. Everard explained she is kind of out of the loop with the School Librarian taking charge of the project. She did present Mr. Bohannon with receipts for the books purchased and will email him all the financial details tomorrow. Ms. Everard also noted the author has requested lodging. The School Librarian is negotiating with the author. Mr. Bohannon asked if the approved amount has been exceeded. Ms. Everard said she didn't think so and asked again what the amount was. Mr. Bohannon advised that the Committee had approved \$2,000 for the event. Ms.

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Everard noted the event will take place May 15th. She will forward the schedule to Committee members. She noted the students at Franklin School have been enjoying the books.

8) **New Business** – None at this time.

9) **Adjourn-**

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Next meeting date: June 6, 2018

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker
May 3, 2018