

City of Keene
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

5:00 PM

Room 12 Rec. Center

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Andrew Bohannon, Parks & Rec. Director

Others Present:

Mohammad Saleh

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 and introductions made. Mr. Bohannon noted Mr. Saleh would be an official member after tomorrow night's City Council meeting.

2) Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2018

Ms. Manwaring motioned to approve the minutes of December 5, 2018 as submitted. Ms. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Committee members discussed the last page of the meeting packet denoting Committee members and their terms. Ms. Manwaring pointed out Jennifer Carroll was listed as a member. Mr. Bohannon commented she has never shown up for a meeting.

3) Finance Report –

Mr. Bohannon explained the budget and funding sources for the new members. He continued with the Finance Report noting the \$5,000 contribution to the Walldogs towards the Jonathan Daniels mural. The current balance is \$3,824.70.

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

4) Commission Direction –

- a. Calendar of Events 2019 - Updates

1. **MLK Breakfast**- Chair Hay reported it does not seem like the Breakfast will be happening this year. Mr.

Bohannon provided an overview of the Committee's involvement in the Martin Luther King Breakfast every year for new members. Ms. Everard said she would contact Elsa Worth for verification. Ms. Salwen also noted she would message Mark Ferrin.

2. **KSC Events** – Ms. Morris provided a January through March schedule of events being planned. Ms. Morris said the January 24th and January 30th are things they will be doing. The January 31st event is not set in stone; she picked that date because she wanted the students to be involved.

Wednesday, January 24th – Film screening and discussion- “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin”.

Wednesday, January 30th- Panel discussion about immigrant and refugees rights in the United States- Creating Dr. King's
Beloved Community

Ms. Morris said she would send live links to all members. Regarding the February 1st Nominations for President's Annual Outstanding women of NH awards, Ms. Morris said the Committee could decide what it wanted to do. Continuing her overview Ms. Morris referred to the Tuesday, February 19th conversation with Jennifer Harvey, author of “Raising White Kids”. Although she is working with the Child Development Center she asked if it would be possible to send a flyer to the school to see if any parents were interested in attending. Ms. Everard agreed to present the flyer to the Superintendent for Ms. Morris if she would provide the flyer. Ms. Morris reported Ms. Harvey will be here for two days and is very interested in doing community events. In response to Ms. Salwen Ms. Morris reported she mostly talks to parents rather than children.

Upon completion of her overview of the events Ms. Morris noted the times and locations have yet to be determined. She expects most will take place around 6:00 PM. Ms. Morris will forward the information to Mr. Bohannon when times/locations have been determined. Ms. Morris explained the goal to make this more international hence a speaker from Australia and Canada. Ms. Morris clarified for Ms. Salwen she is presenting the schedule as a representative of KSC and is reaching out to see what the Committee would like to collaborate on. Ms. Salwen and Ms. Everard commented on the incredible lineup.

Backing up Chair Hay asked for an explanation of the film 13th. Ms. Morris said the film is about the 13th Amendment and a lot of the work Michelle Alexander did. She noted the film is shown to cadets at the State Police Academy in Vermont.

Ms. Salwen asked about publicizing these events. Mr. Bohannon said he will check to see if they can be put on the City's calendar and that they could be promoted on the MLK calendar. Ms. Morris added she would put the events on Facebook once the times and locations are set so that people can sign up to attend.

Ms. Morris explained the “Nominations for Outstanding Women in NH” and encouraged

everyone to take a look at the link and vote. Nominations are due February 1st and the event will take place on March 4th.

Mr. Bohannon asked Ms. Morris how the Committee could provide support. Chair Hay verified the Committee is interested in supporting these events. Ms. Morris would like the Committee to think about what we would like to do on January 31st, and where would the Committee like the event to take place on campus or in the community. Mr. Bohannon liked the idea of promoting it on campus. Mr. Bohannon will send Ms. Morris the City Seal and the event can go on the Facebook page. If Ms. Morris sends Mr. Bohannon the information he will make sure it gets distributed to the Councilor's boxes etc.

Mr. Bohannon also favored the Committee's involvement in the February 19th and 20th conversation. Ms. Everard suggested a larger venue and getting it out to all the schools; not just one. Ms. Morris agreed with the suggestion. Mr. Bohannon noted the difficulty in getting parents to attend. Ms. Morris asked what a good time would be. Ms. Everard and Mr. Bohannon suggested 6:30 or 7:00 PM. Mr. Bohannon suggested the Thorne Art Gallery or the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies as venues on campus. Ms. Morris said she is looking for a couple of Committee members to meet with before the January 31st event. Ms. Morris noted she always leans towards panels and discussions; Ms. Everard share she leans more towards music. Ms. Salwen asked about the Beloved Community. Ms. Morris explained that was something Dr. King always talked about including the three evils of society- racism, poverty, and war. In response to Mr. Saleh, Ms. Morris indicated she thought the event would last a couple of hours. Ms. Salwen shared her experience in Norway and suggested a drum circle- a gathering of people with different backgrounds sharing sounds from their own childhoods. As the discussion continued Ms. Morris said she would reach out to Evelyn Harris and provide her with Ms. Everard's and Ms. Salwen's contact information. If Ms. Harris is not interested Ms. Morris said she could also contact Samirah Evans, a jazz musician, who lives in Brattleboro. Committee members agreed they were in favor of this idea. Mr. Saleh also suggested the lady from the Solidarity Walk, Maggie Fogarty. He explained people shared different songs and the translations were provided so people could sing along. Ms. Morris will be working with Ms. Everard and Ms. Salwen on the event and report back to the group through Mr. Bohannon.

At this time the Committee will be endorsing the Jan 30th, February 13th, and February 19th – 20th.

3. International Festival-

Mr. Bohannon reported he sent out emails and has not heard anything back. He will follow up before the next meeting to see if they are interested. Ms. Manwaring reported the date is Saturday, September 21st. Mr. Bohannon said he would like reach out to them and possibly host it at the Recreation Center just because of the parking and venue.

b. City Ordinance – Purpose-

Mr. Bohannon referred to the Committee' purpose included in today's meeting packet. He noted the discussion from the last meeting adding he has a meeting with the Mayor in two weeks to give him a progress report on what the Committee has done the last two meetings and advise him of two new commitments to join the Committee; Pam Knight and Tammy

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Parrott, Assistant Director of the Keene Public Library. Mr. Bohannon explained the collaborations and grant availabilities provided in the past with having a staff member of the Library on the Committee. He also noted at the moment City staff cannot be assigned members of a Committee. Mr. Bohannon is still open to recommendations from the Committee.

Mr. Bohannon recommended Committee members take a look at the Purpose perhaps for discussion at the next meeting.

- Is this purpose really the direction of the Committee? The Mayor would like to see workforce diversity added in addition to a welcoming community for all.
- There has been an ask to change the name of the Committee; no names have been proposed. Ms. Morris suggested meeting with members of the College City Committee who prepared the report the Mayor refers to.

Mr. Bohannon recommended the focus of the February meeting should be to create a new focus and come up with a new name. Mr. Bohannon will check with other towns to see if they have a model committee already established.

5) New Business-

- Committee Membership - 2 vacancies to fill - **Discussed under agenda item 4.b**

6) Adjourn-

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

Next meeting date: February 6, 2019

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker
January 3, 2019

Edits provided by,
Andy Bohannon, Staff
January 18, 2019