

City of Keene  
New Hampshire

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

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

5:00 PM

Trustee's Room, Library

**Members Present:**

Bill Hay, Chair  
Yves Gakunde  
Mandi Slate  
Rev. Michael Hall  
Melanie Everard, Vice-Chair (Late)  
Dottie Morris (Late)

**Staff Present:**

Andy Bohannon, Parks & Rec Director  
Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

**Members Not Present:**

**1) Call to Order and Roll Call -**

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM. Committee members completed the Keene Board/Commission Survey at the start of the meeting.

**2) Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2017**

Rev. Hall motioned to approve the minutes of May 3, 2017 as submitted. Ms. Slate seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3) Finance Report – (Page 4 of 6)**

Ms. Spaulding reported the current balance is \$9,012.66 with no changes from last month.

Mr. Gakunde made a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented. Rev. Hall seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**4) Funding Request- Keene Public Library (Pages 5 & 6)**

Gail Zachariah addressed the co-sponsorship request. She reported the Keene Chautauqua will be held at the Library, on August 25, 2017, at 6:30 PM. Historic scholars will appear as WW1 figures and discuss how the war led to changes in America's role in International relations, and its impact on race, gender, and class issues. The historic figures are President Woodrow Wilson and sociologist/activist W.E.B. DuBois; both shaped race relations. Wilson clung to the white racism of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century while DuBois worked to end America's race problem. Ms. Zachariah noted the \$500.00 would be used to help cover travel expenses for the actors. She also noted other

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee  
July 12, 2017

contributors and a grant as funding sources. If approved these funds will also help to bring T.J. Wheeler, a singer to the event. Mr. Wheeler would talk about music, race, and war.

Rev. Hall commented the race issue is pretty deep here and asked if that was the intent. Ms. Zachariah replied in the affirmative noting both performers have worked together in the past. She noted race was an important aspect of WW1 to study and the Chautauqua is a good way to have complicated issues discussed. Rev. Hall also asked if there was support material for the event. Ms. Zachariah there will be an informational program put together for people to read. Chair Hay pointed out the suffrage issue was also big at that time.

Ms. Slate mentioned a possible collaboration with the Library on the Committee's upcoming book event.

Committee members commented they were in support of the event and advised Ms. Zachariah a vote would be taken at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Ms. Zachariah indicated that would not be an issue.

In response to Mr. Gakunde, Ms. Zachariah noted the event is free and that sponsors will be recognized in the brochure. Chair Hay thanked Ms. Zachariah for coming.

Mr. Bohannon did note if the Committee decides not to meet in August a vote wouldn't be taken until September. In order to avoid delaying the response until after the event the Committee would need to vote on this issue now. He also noted this is not something the Committee would typically do. Addressing the Committee's request for funds procedure Ms. Morris pointed out this request was submitted in May. Discussion noted there was no fault to the applicant regarding the time between submittal and approval. This was solely due to the Committee's preapproved meeting schedule. In keeping with the Committee's procedure the vote will take place at the August 2, 2017 meeting which is before the event date. Chair Hay verified a quorum would be present at the August meeting; Mr. Bohannon advised members can also attend via telecom.

##### **5) Update- Book/Author Sponsorship**

Ms. Slate reported she did meet with Mr. Bohannon to work on the C&S mini-grant for \$1,500.00. Mr. Bohannon reported he has not heard back from C&S. Ms. Slate indicated she would resume communication with Susan Meyer on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Slate reiterated the pieces agreed upon at the last meeting. She reported Ms. Meyer is willing to do the three presentations and the luncheon for \$1,500.00. This does not include the overnight or mileage. Ms. Meyer also requests a book flyer be distributed prior to her arrival. She will do book signing when she is here.

Ms. Slate noted the Committee did not finish its discussion regarding an evening event; she noted the books are for school age children. Addressing Ms. Everard, Mr. Bohannon explained he and Ms. Slate were trying to figure out what to do as there are four schools and only three presentations. Ms. Everard suggested getting a bus to transport students from one school to the other or walking to the Colonial Theater; if it was the venue. She also suggested the possibility of combining two of the smaller schools. Mr. Bohannon suggested the Blastos Room and KSC as other possible venues. Chair Hay also noted the weather has to be a consideration for walking.

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee  
July 12, 2017

Rev. Hall asked the cost difference for having Ms. Meyer do four presentations and the luncheon, over the two days, that way all schools are covered. Mr. Bohannon noted the bus rental fee would probably be around \$200 where the hotel costs are approximately \$130.00. He suggested asking Ms. Meyer if she would do the four presentations and the luncheon for \$2,000.00. Mr. Bohannon also suggested advising C&S we want to include all schools when applying for the grant.

Ms. Slate noted she would like to have a couple of proposals to present to Ms. Meyer. Ms. Slate said she has questions on the process to follow from this point. She suggested she put together a couple of ideas and submit them to Ms. Spaulding for Committee distribution. Mr. Bohannon agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Bohannon commented we do have what we need to apply for the grant so we will move forward on that front.

Mr. Gakunde asked about purchasing/donating books to the schools. Mr. Bohannon advised the event budget includes \$350.00 to purchase books for the schools and the Library. Ms. Slate asked if the Committee wanted to purchase all three books for each school and the Library. In response to Rev. Hall the Committee began a discussion on which grades would attend the presentations. After discussion the Committee consensus was to start with the first and fourth grades.

Noting Ms. Slate asked the Committee to brainstorm, Rev. Hall asked if Keene has a Reading Buddy or similar writing class with other older students. Rev. Hall said he is looking for a way to tie in meeting with the author and conceivably continue with something. Ms. Everard said she loves the idea noting the problem is fitting it into the school schedule. To run with Rev. Hall's idea Mr. Bohannon suggested pushing the event out to February; he cited the mural project as an example of working with the schools. Ms. Everard suggested first finding out what the testing schedule is for next year. Ms. Slate agreed to contact Ms. Meyer regarding her availability in February. Committee members were all in favor of this concept and Ms. Slate noted she had no problem with this morphing into something other than the original plan. Noting the schools would have to buy in on the idea Committee members decided on the following:

- Ms. Everard agreed to speak with other teachers to ascertain their interest
- Get teachers input on what a literacy/art component would look like
- Someone should speak to the Principal at Franklin – Ms. Everard
- Tie this in with Read Across America and Black History Month
- Invite teachers to the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to present the concept to them – Ms. Everard
- Funding discussions with C&S - Mr. Bohannon and Ms. Slate
- Invite Franklin School's new Librarian to the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – Ms. Everard

Ms. Slate suggested someone write this out as a proposal after several ideas were shared. Ms. Everard suggested reading the book, completing a project, then have Ms. Meyer come for her presentation/luncheon. Mr. Bohannon suggested the Committee could hammer out the details at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as this will be the only agenda item in addition to the Request for Funds from the Library.

Mr. Bohannon clarified for Ms. Everard he is thinking we should only work with one school and Franklin is the most diverse school in the City. Ms. Everard also suggested having some of the struggling third and fourth grade readers read to small groups of first graders.

Martin Luther King, Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee  
July 12, 2017

**6) Washington DC Trip- September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Spaulding reported as of now five people have signed up for the trip. She noted no Committee members have signed up to go. Several Committee members indicated they were unable to go. Ms. Spaulding reminded the Committee a cancellation call would need to be placed by the end of August. Mr. Bohannon reported his Department would be getting a new vehicle soon. He indicated if the bus trip fails a smaller group trip might be an alternative using the new vehicle. Chair Hay asked about additional ways to promote the trip. Mr. Bohannon said he would push the bus trip on Facebook once or twice a week. Committee members agreed to spread the word. Mr. Gakunde suggested printing more flyers for distribution to increase awareness.

**7) New Business –**

1. Chair Hay mentioned a Committee, the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility that works out of the Historical Society. Chair Hay will be contacting them to see if there are any opportunities for collaboration.
2. Chair Hay reported the Keene Immigration and Refugee Committee signs are still for sale. The price is \$10.00 per sign.

**8) Adjourn-**

There being no further business Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM.

**Next meeting date:** August 2, 2017

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute Taker  
July 13, 2017

Respectfully edited by,  
Meghan Spaulding, Staff Liaison  
August 3, 2017