

City of Keene
New Hampshire

MARTIN LUTHER KING/JONATHAN DANIELS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

5:00 PM

Keene Library Trustee's Room

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Meghan Spaulding, Recreation Programmer

Members Not Present:

Mandi Slate

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM and roll call was conducted.

2) Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2017

The name “Susan Meyers” listed in the minutes should be changed to “Susan Meyer.”

Rev. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017 as amended, which was seconded by Ms. Morris and carried unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Ms. Spaulding reported that there is no change in the budget since the last meeting. The Committee budget remains at \$9,012.66.

4) Funding Request – Keene Public Library

The Committee recalled that the Keene Public Library has requested \$500 in funding. Ms. Morris, Rev. Hall, and Chair Hay agreed it is a good proposal.

Rev. Hall made a motion to approve the \$500 funding request for Keene Public Library, which was seconded by Ms. Morris and carried unanimously.

5) Update – Book/Author Sponsorship

Ms. Spaulding reported that Mandi Slate is stepping down from the Committee due to other obligations; she had been in communication with Susan Meyer, the author, and someone else is needed to lead this effort. Ms. Everard agreed to take over communications with Ms. Meyer with the help of the Keene Librarian and Franklin School Librarian. Kate Abbott and Melinda Beldon, Franklin School Teachers, were present at the meeting to help collaborate on this effort. Ms. Spaulding will work with Mr. Bohannon to complete the grant paperwork for this event, through C&S Wholesale Grocers. The three books authored by Ms. Meyer are New Shoes, Skating on the Statue of Liberty, and Black Radishes.

Ms. Everard recalled that the decision was made to do this program with just Franklin School (all grades) as opposed to grades one and four at all schools in town; Franklin School is the most diverse and this will keep the program from being too large, and therefore ineffective. One large event at the Colonial for all the schools was considered, but the schools would have to come up with money for busses to transport students. These are details that will be addressed later. Possibilities for this program include:

- Teachers read the books to students in advance of Ms. Meyer's arrival
- Art activities
- Theater activities
- Activities around MLK Day in January
- Activities around Black History Month in February
- Activities in association with the America Reads Program
- Having older students act as buddies to read the books to younger students
- Have the books available for sale to the students and have Ms. Meyer sign them
- Testing will have to be considered to not interfere with scheduling this program

Rev. Hall cautioned promoting this as a prototype event for future events as opposed to a one-time event. Ms. Everard said this is a one-time event with no expectation of Ms. Meyer coming back next year. Ms. Spaulding will obtain and share Ms. Slate's communications with Ms. Meyer. Ms. Abbott and Ms. Beldon suggested presenting this idea at the second staff meeting of the school year; Ms. Everard will collaborate with them to prepare a presentation for that meeting. Rev. Hall thanked the teachers for their hard work.

6) Washington DC

Ms. Spaulding reported there were still only six people signed-up for the trip (including Mr. Gakunde who volunteered at the meeting), and she had to notify the Wilson Bus Company by August 3 as to whether or not their services would be used; if so, they required half the deposit for 40 people. Another option was to use a City van, for which 10 people would be required; she or Mr. Bohannon would have to drive that van the entire 16 hours both ways. The Committee discussed the various conflicts with having the event this time of year.

Rev. Hall made a motion to cancel the 2017 trip to Washington DC, which was seconded by Mr. Gakunde and carried unanimously.

7) New Business

Rev. Hall noted that Jonathan Daniels spent a lot of time working in Providence, Rhode Island and suggested a field trip to do mission-related activities there. Chair Hay said he will contact Rich and Sandra Wallace, who knew Jonathan Daniels, to see if they can connect the Committee with something in Providence. Rev. Hall will look into it more and report at the September meeting.

Ms. Spaulding urged members to be thinking about recruitment for the Committee, as there are now two vacant spaces to fill, and four members are required for quorum.

Ms. Morris announced an upcoming event for a powerful film she hopes the Committee will promote:

- *Shadows Fall North*
- Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 PM
- Screening at the Colonial Theater
- About human remains found at an African burial ground in Portsmouth, NH and how that community united to address the contentious situation

Chair Hay reported he has been in contact with representatives of the Jonathan Daniels Committee for Social Responsibility. These two committees are not duplicative, but complementary and the Chairs of both Committees have agreed it would be good to start working together. The Jonathan Daniels Committee for Social Responsibility began because there were artifacts left when the Jonathan Daniels School was closed; they gave the \$65,000 they had to the Cheshire County Historical Society to refurbish their basement to house these artifacts; this new exhibit should be open early 2018. Chair Hay will be going to one of their meetings and has invited them to attend this meeting.

8) Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Hay adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Katie Kibler, Minute Taker