

MLK Celebration Committee Meeting
Thursday August 19, 2021
10:30 AM
Virtual - Zoom

Members Present: Rob Daves, Christiana Akins, Ann Kamensky, Bernard Greene, Bobbie Knable

Other: Jack Curtis, Hadassah Margolis, Caitlin Starr (ODICR)

Minutes

1. Minutes from 7/27/21 approved unanimously with edit to Wallis Raemer's name.
2. **2022 MLK Annual Event**
 - a. Caitlin gave Committee on update regarding BIG and moving forward with funding as well at the Town discount for the upcoming year. For an in person event BIG estimates for 2022 we would be charged \$100. As we request editing and longer and more time consuming commitments the price will reflect accordingly.
 - b. Coolidge Corner has been reserved for January 17, 2022 for 3PM.
 - c. If we need to go remote we should propose to any potential speakers moving forward that this may be the necessary shift.
 - d. Theme/Speakers:
 - Voting Rights in broader context
 1. Should consider historical evolution and the current context
 2. Panel addressing both history and where we are (aren't) today
 3. Professor at Harvard – Dr. David A. Moss held an intriguing and engaging “Lecture” on a similar topic; “Making Democracy Work”. Christiana will reach out to Dr. Moss or his admin and find out interest and availability in presenting in Brookline.
 4. Facing History and Ourselves may be a useful org to reach out to – incorporate how young people learn about voting rights.
 5. Voting is how power is expressed
 - Regie Gibson is interested and available – he is working on a project called Atlas Soul or can do something specific to our program. Committee agreed they would like Bernard to confirm his participation.
 - Jack knows a History professor at BC and will reach out to get recommendations.
3. **Inspo:Expo/MLK Day**
 - a. There is some planning in the works for a sort of “Extravaganza” at KI and 2Life for MLK Day. Hadassah Margolis joined the Committee to share some of their ideas and see if the Committee would be interested in supporting.
 - Rabbi Hamilton is hoping to dedicate the walkway between the buildings to MLK and Abraham Joshua Heschel by inviting members of both men's families and having a community wide dedication on MLK Day.
 - Inspo:Expo is expected to be held at KI from 12-3PM
 - Welcome Blanket Brookline exhibit (A room filled with blankets, notes of welcome and possibly tutorials)
 - The Jewish Arbor Day also falls on MLK Day.

- b. The Committee would be happy to support and cross promote any programming at KI. We also discussed possibly including a short segment on Heschel into our Program (***IF KI is able to hold the in person dedication***). Hadassah was going to speak with Rabbi Hamilton and see if he may be interested in speaking on the subject for a few minutes or know of any students of Heschel who were also a part of the Civil Rights Movement that may be interested.
- c. We will invite Hadassah and Rabbi Hamilton to our October meeting.

4. Reggie Harris Update

- a. He is coming through Boston in Feb 2022 to tour with Alister Mook. Would cost \$2000. This could be an engaging evening in Brookline.
OR
- b. Wallis Raemer is away for the winter, but we could plan a program for Reggie and Wallis to hold a discussion together in Spring 2022 (this would include travel cost for Reggie).

5. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday September 23rd at 10:30am