

MLK Celebration Committee Meeting
Thursday December 2, 2021
1PM
Virtual - Zoom

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

Public: Jack Curtis, Shawn O'Neal

Other: Caitlin Starr (ODICR)

Guests: Rabbi Hamilton and Hadassah Margolis

Minutes

1. 11/18/21 min approved
2. Discussion of 2022 Event
 - a. Voting Concerns to give to Prof. Robert Tsai
 - LWV will discuss and get back to us, as will Town Clerk.
 - Bernard mentioned Tommy Vitolo brought up a bill relevant to this – prisoner's ability to vote.
 - Bernard will collect a well written document to present to Prof. Tsai to possibly incorporate into his keynote.
 - b. Kuumba Singers - will not be able to accept our offer as they will not have enough performers in Town on January 17th. Committee questioned ability to do a video performance, but given the timeframe before students leave campus, realize that may not be feasible.
 - c. Other Possible performers?
 - Brookline Music School – Ann will reach out to a Board member she knows
 - Twelfth St. Choir – Bernard will cold call.
 - Folk singers that performed at John Wilson's unveiling at Town Hall – Rob will reach out.
 - Rob will also get in touch with the Hayes family to see if Zeda might be available.
 - d. Regie Gibson – Bernard spoke with him and he has confirmed ability after 3:15pm.
 - Poem he is working on has three parts (one after the other)
 1. Police stopping a black male
 2. Link of oppression
 3. "fight together or sink separately" – idea that all peoples oppressions are our oppressions.
 - e. Poet Laureate – Bernard will reach out and invite her to participate and see if there is something appropriate she might be able to read.
 - f. Jack is working on compiling a list of YA and Adult books about voting rights.
 - g. Historical Timeline – Caitlin shared the original with Rob as a Google Slide and will share with rest of MLK Committee to suggest added events and images.
 - h. Poster and Program
 - Kristin needs title
 1. Working title that most committee members liked {Democracy: Participation Required}
 - a. Committee will vote on title no later than next meeting
 2. Discussion of artwork and ensuring that after publicity it remains at Pierce.
 3. Program/Event Schedule – Caitlin drafted and shared with Committee and will continue to update.

- i. Budget update/BCF – Rob has had preliminary discussion with Katie at BCF and she will reach out to Caitlin and walk through the process for MLK Day.
 - BIG – sent Bernard a \$1200 invoice for MLK Day, however, Caitlin was quoted roughly \$600, which we have allotted into our budget. Caitlin will clarify with Ann Theis.
3. Other Business
 - a. Rob shared that the Coolidge may be interested in partnering with MLK Committee on hosting the mid year program with Reggie Harris.
4. Discussion with Guests (Rabbi Hamilton and Hadassah Margolis) on Collaboration with KI
 - a. There is reluctance about going forward with dedication of bridge between 2Life and the Sanctuary due to increasing COVID concerns.
 - KI has decided to not rush ahead and execute this large dedication with media, etc this year as they really want to do it when there is real opportunity to highlight action, doing good, and Inspo: Expo.
 - Prudent to target 2023 for this major event
 - Better opportunity to activate the community fully.
 - b. Inspo:Expo “presents” forum is possible to do remotely. Caitlin will reach out to Hadassah and brainstorm.
 - c. Discussion of possible printed piece from KI about “Did you Know?” relationship between Reverend King and Rabbi Heschel.
 - d. Rabbi Hamilton is interested and willing to do a short segment on their relationship and Brookline history in the actual spoken program. Thank you, Rabbie!
5. Next Meeting
 - a. Thursday Dec 9th at 1:30PM