

Indigenous People's Celebration Committee

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

4:00-5:00 PM

Public Health Building, Small Conference Room

Minutes

Committee members present: Raquel Halsey, Kea van der Ziel, Caitlin Starr

Public: Bruce Wolff, Arthur Conquest, Larry Onie

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM

1. Minutes of minutes from 2/5/19 approved with minimal edits.
2. Election of officers:
 - a. Chair: Raquel Halsey
 - b. Vice chair and recording secretary: Kea van der Ziel
3. Brainstorming of possible events for IPD weekend:
 - a. Locations
 - i. Main Library application available only 3 months before event, need to check to see if there is a standing meeting at time we wish. These take precedence over other bookings. Caitlin will check.
 - ii. Other possibilities: Coolidge Corner School multipurpose room which has a stage – Caitlin to check on availability for 10/14 (Monday). Caitlin stated that if we wanted food, we need a licensed vendor. Raquel knows someone who is a licensed vendor, works with Harm Free Eats.
 - iii. Other possibility: MLK Room at BHS, but will check CC School 1st.
 - b. Ideas for event:
 - i. Need for event to be lively, like a dance performance
 - ii. Possible educational portion, suggestion that includes what a “catastrophe” Christopher Columbus was. Educational event might be in form of poetry.
 - iii. Raquel will check to see if Brookline Booksmith is planning anything for the week before IPD.
 - iv. Larry suggested getting in touch with Philip Deloria, author of “Playing Indian” at Harvard or Elizabeth Johnson at the Harvard School of Public Health. Larry to f/u.
 - v. Possible display of Larry’s Wabanaki baskets at Town Hall or library.
 - vi. Kea to ask Raul Fernandez about Wide Lens coordinating with IPD
 - vii. Possibility of showing “Dawnland” raised.

4. Cursory review of grade 1 curriculum for IPD revealed some problem areas. Kea to try to begin conversation with School Department to see if they can attend a meeting. Arthur raised the question about whether the School Department holds any Native American history sessions with teachers. They do this with African American history. Cedric Woods of U Mass Boston does this type of training for the Boston Public Schools.
5. Question of trying to recruit new members:
 - a. Lizzy Buhl of Brookline High who had to leave before the meeting was called to order said she would look for BHS students.
 - b. Possibility of people who want to be involved but having limited availability might come to meetings as they are able. A variety of points of view are welcome.
 - c. The Select Board has at least one other application that has not been acted on. Kea to ask them to look at applicant.
6. Next Meeting: April 2 at 4 PM at Health Department, Caitlin to arrange room.
7. Meeting adjourned at 5 PM.