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.