

MLK Celebration Committee
Monday, April 1, 2019
Public Health Building – Library
5:30PM – 7:00PM

Minutes

Present: Bernard Greene, Rob Daves, Bobbie Knable, Ann Kamensky, Bill Mitchell, Caitlin Starr

Absent: Jack Curtis

1. **2/25/18 minutes** reviewed and approved with a name edit.
2. **Follow Up on 2019 Event:**
 - Thank You's – Caitlin wrote thank you's to performers, speakers, Harvey and the Coolidge. Bernard signed at the meeting. Caitlin will mail them out.
 - Brookline Facing Civil Rights follow up
 - i. Harvey is working on the closed captioning.
 - ii. Caitlin will get link from BIG of the entire event and put on the MLK website.
 - iii. Caitlin will update website to also include 2019 printed program.
3. **2020 Ideas**
 - Focus on a less packed program.
 - Potential topics could include: Equity, History of Structural Inequities, Remedies and Reparations.
 - It is an election year – voting topic? Relevant campaign issue?
 - Speaker and Q&A format?
 - Potential Speakers:
 - i. **Margery Eagan** – Boston Public Radio, WGBH – interview somebody on stage regarding a current issue or author, etc. Record the show at the event with several guests geared towards MLK? Bill will reach out and put idea out there.
 - ii. **Meghna Chakrabarti** – WBUR
 - iii. **Jesse Mermell** – Alliance for Business Leadership
 - iv. **Juliette Kayyem** – possibly speak on surveillance?
 - v. **Ruth Ellen Fitch** – related to Metco – how it came into existence, metropolitan areas and segregation, context for what it is today. Or if she knows someone who may be appropriate and interested.
 - vi. **High School Students** – Students Against Institutional Racism – currently looking at history curriculums and recruiting students to form a study group in elementary schools.
4. **New Ideas**
 - Potential Mid-Year Program
 - i. Program about fostering cross cultural/racial relationships
 1. Increase in cross-racial relationships/friendship, positively affects diversity issues in other settings.
 2. Caitlin will look into this.
 3. “Some of my friends are’ – by Deborah Plummer
 - ii. Initiative to increase middle income families of color moving into Brookline.
 - iii. Discussion with past Sojourn students and their parents as how faculty sees this as a part of teaching history.
 1. Reach out to Malcom
 2. Informal discussion

- iv. School Curriculum – what are they teaching kids on sovereignty and race? Talk to School Committee?
- v. Public program to discuss with a panel of school admin and committee about Black History curriculum; open to students and adults. “Teaching American History in Brookline”, “How do you challenge history taught”; “Challenging the conventional view of history”. Potentially work with IPDC?
- vi. Recruit new members! Caitlin will work on recruitment materials and send out.

5. Next Meeting

- Monday May 13th 5:30-7pm in Health Department Library