

MLK Celebration Committee
Monday, July 8, 2019
Public Health Building – Library
5:30PM – 7:00PM

Minutes

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

Absent: Bill Mitchell

Public: Jack Curtis

1. **5/13/19 minutes** reviewed and approved.

2. **Summer Event with Deborah Plummer, PhD.**

- Bobbie, Ann, Bernard, Rob and Bernard confirmed attendance.
- 5:30PM set up on July 31st at Hunneman Hall.
- Questioned if Dr. Plummer will be signing books. Caitlin will follow up.
- Caitlin will order food: cheese, crackers, fruit, water and lemonade.
- Bernard will introduce Dr. Plummer.
- www.DLPlummer.com
- Caitlin will order books next week for distribution.
- Caitlin will work on programs and speak with Dr. Plummer about specific distribution of the donated books: BHA, Brookline Libraries, Senior Center, and Boston Libraries?

3. **I Have A Dream Musical**

- Caitlin shared with group the proposal of the “I Have a Dream Proposal” from the Herman Levine Jones Theater South Atlanta, in Miami – cost \$35,000 to bring core cast to Brookline for 4 months to cast and practice the musical with residents of Brookline.
- The committee discussed the opportunity to get BU involved or other colleges, or communities involved.
- Caitlin will send link to the group to review and discuss at the next meeting.
- BCF grant? State Arts Commission? Other arts groups and commissions involved?
- Committee questioned King Foundation endorsement. Caitlin will look into this.

4. **2020 Ideas**

- John Lewis – High School students write a letter to invite him? Or connect with a local congressman?
- Margery Eagen has not responded to Bill. Bernard will reach out.
- Joe Kennedy – Ann will ask Tommy Vitolo how to connect.
- Taylor Branch – 2 volume history of MLK; civil rights historian. Jack will try and reach out.
- David Margolick – author
- Patricia Wen
- Juliette Kayyem
- Ruth Ellen Fitch – discuss Metco, access to education and segregation. Possibly pair with a current journalist on the same topic.

- Potential topic of event: Housing Segregation of Metro Boston – how segregation initially began and how despite Affirmative Housing Act it still is. Exclusionary zoning, etc. Bernard will do more research on potential speakers for this topic.
- Potential topic of event: voting rights/access to voting/ how to get people voting here and now/voting education. Jack will look into potential speakers.

5. Other Business

- Sojourn to the Past – discussion on why cancelled. Is there room for corporate sponsorship? Potential lack of capacity to coordinate? Lack of support from HS? Better fundraising campaign? How can the Committee get the process to be addressed?
- Committee would like to consider discussing Warrant Articles and making public comments in support or against.
- Curriculum discussion with BPS?
 - i. New hire in superintendent's office: Kalise Wornum (Senior Director of Education Equity). Committee may like to invite her to a meeting in the future.
- Harvey – Wider dissemination of Brookline: Facing Civil Rights? Caitlin will follow up on how Harvey would like to move forward with more showings, etc.

6. Next Meeting

Monday August 19, 2019
5:30-7:00 PM
PH Library