

MLK Celebration Committee
Monday, August 19, 2019
Public Health Building – Library
5:30PM – 7:00PM

Minutes

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

Absent: Bill Mitchell, Ann Kamensky

Public: Harvey Bravman

I. Minutes from 7/8/19 approved.

II. Other Business

- a. The Committee received an update from Harvey regarding Brookline: Facing Civil Rights.
 - i. Harvey wanted to distribute and continue the project in a way that people would watch.
 - ii. He submitted a grant proposal to BCF to fund a screening and discussion and it was recently approved.
 - iii. Dec 12th at the Coolidge Corner Theatre – screening and discussion upstairs; an opportunity to promote the upcoming MLK Day event. The idea is to show the film with a follow up community discussion about present day and expand beyond racism; but rather the experience of “other” (including immigrants, low income individuals, people with disabilities, etc). A potential moderator is Ken Elmore, the Dean of Students at BU and a Brookline resident. Harvey is looking for other people/educators/scholars for a potential panel, ex: civil rights lawyer, ADA expert, etc.
 - iv. Harvey also shared that he is looking to receive more grants/funding to begin another film “We Are Brookline” addressing inclusivity and diversity within our community.

III. Feedback on Dr. Plummer Event

- a. Around 30-40 participants. Community seemed to really enjoy hearing from Dr. Plummer and enjoyed the conversation after. There was 1 participant who was interested in joining the MLK Committee, Caitlin reached out to them and invited them to this meeting. Caitlin will reach out again.

IV. 2020 Ideas

- a. Crystal Williams: Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at BU. She is a poet and lives in Brookline. Bernard shared information on her. Committee discussed a potential topic of diversity in education and employment, Crystal reading her poetry and using poetry as a tool, etc. Caitlin will send a link to the 2018 Convocation so Committee can hear her speak and Bernard will reach out to her.
- b. How can we bring different perspectives to a discussion?
- c. Margery Eagen – Bernard will reach out.
- d. Ruth Ellen Fitch – METCO and education, housing and school segregation, potential discussion on curriculum and current role and need.
- e. Public Health and Race – are there any connections to MLK? Caitlin will do some research.

V. Next Meeting – TBD