

MLK Celebration Committee Meeting
Friday September 30, 2021
12:30 PM
Virtual - Zoom

Members Present: Rob Daves, Bernard Greene

Other: Caitlin Starr (ODICR)

Minutes

1. Recruitment Discussion
 - a. Rob has been trying to encourage people to participate – both individuals seem interested and Rob will follow up with them; Wallis Reamer and Margaret Talcott.
 - b. Bernard would like to continue to see if Shawn would like to be a member
 - c. Caitlin will send out a recruitment email/blast to networks mid-October

2. 2023 MLK Discussion
 - a. First thing discussed was whether the Committee would prefer the annual event to be in person or remote this year. In person is preferred, but things to consider will be filling the auditorium, and trying to find a relatively local speaker willing to present in person.
 - b. Committee reviewed list of potential speakers that has been compiled over the last year and added a few potential names and ideas as well as reviewed suggestions made by Jack Curtis via email:
 - Additional Names: Crystal Williams, Henry Louis Gates, Ibram Kendi or someone from the BU Center for Antiracist Policy, Dr. Linus Guillory?
 - Notes from Jack :
 1. MLK Speaking at Brandeis
 2. Story of “We Shall Overcome”
 3. Democracy & Voting Threatened - focus on voting rights and voting restrictions as evidenced/experienced in the mid-term elections. Possible spotlight on backward Supreme Court decisions. Analyze state of voting today, what can be done, how restrictions impact voting, representation, federal funding
 - a. Talk or panel with journalists, historians, profs, experts, activists
 - b. Invite Chad Williams back or his colleague, Anita Hill
 - c. President of Boston chapter of NAACP (and recent candidate for MA Sec of St)
 - d. consider Ari Berman, journalist, recognized authority on voting
 - c. Topics/Themes:
 - Misuse of MLK quotes and beliefs – loud examples ignoring what King really stood for
 - MLK and White Extremists?
 - Black Writers of Protest from Brookline/local? (such as Dorothy West, Marita Bonner, Florida Ruffin Ridley, Helene Johnson, etc)
 - Spark/promote King Boston sculpture currently being created? What this sculpture represents, etc.
 - What does racial equity actually look like?
 - Housing
 - Local Education disparities and a look at what BPS are doing

3. Next Meeting: **Wednesday October 12th at 10:30am**