

NAACP Howard County  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes

Date: May 13, 2019

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Horizon Foundation, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD

**Attendees:**

Willie Flowers

Lynda Earle

Elexis Lawson

Mark Brooks

Mike Butera

Colleen Hughes

Bessie Bordenave

Christina Bostick

Laura Johnson

Barbara Morton

Camryn Harris

**Prayer-**

**Executive Report**

**Motion: Mike Butera moved to approve the agenda. Mark Brooks seconded the motion  
Motion: Motion was made to approve and adopt the April 8, 2019, Executive Committee minutes. Motion was seconded and the minutes were approved and adopted.**

**President's Report**

- Freedom Fund event went well. We got a lot of accolades.
- We need to work on the business side of it. We pulled it off but behind on expectations of volunteers.
- Realistically, we may have to pay someone to do the sponsorships.
- Otherwise, superb. We encourage everyone from leadership perspective to put things in place for next year and for the next person.
- There are too many people doing multiple things. Want to do better at bringing everything together.
  
- **Assistant Secretary**
- Asst. Secretary has been attending the Educational Equity Policy Committee meetings.
- Meetings are held at Wilde Lake High School.
- There was a hiatus in meetings for the staff to visit various schools to get feedback from students.
- The Committee has been reviewing and analyzing educational policies from other jurisdictions in an attempt to garner guidance in creating our own policy for Howard County Public Schools.

- **Freedom Fund Debrief**
- Members shared the following comments regarding the Freedom Fund Brunch:
  - The awardees were a good group; but there were too many awards given. Having more than one person receive the same award is over-kill.
  - Some people didn't know who the people were. There should be something said about the person who the award is named after.
  - There were too many people speaking.
  - When awardees come up they should receive the award on the floor away from the podium so there is no incentive to speak.
  - No one who wanted to join the Freedom Fund Committee should be turned away.
  - We tried to recognize unions at the event 4 unions in HC we wanted them to be involved.
  - Now we have a good timeline for the Freedom Fund that we can put together for the future.
  - We should solidify where we are going to hold the event next year, right now.
  - We can make a checklist.
  - It was a great event! Wouldn't think there were any concerns or issues. Surrounding the Brunch.
  - There should be a fundraising committee of which the Freedom Fund is a part. No money no mission. Make it a subset of fundraising committee.
  - Ms. Bordenave explained that constitutionally there is a fundraising committee. Freedom Fund, Golf Tournament, Education for Champions would come under that.
  - We should shape a bigger vision around the branch for a building fund etc.
  - May 2, 2020, is available at the same location at Arundel Preserve for the Freedom Fund Brunch next year.
  - We should connect back with branch members to see what they might be interested in getting involved with regarding the Freedom Fund.
  - Some people would rather just write a check.
  - In the past there was music and dancing after the banquet when it was a dinner. This attracted younger groups.
  - Christina Bostick did a blue jeans and pearls event but had trouble getting the young people into it.
  - President: we need to be creative about the fundraising piece.
- **President**
- Next NAACP meeting is May 23, 2019. Want that to be a community town hall meeting at Harpers Choice about the shooting death of Ronald Carolina.
- Want to invite different stakeholders to figure out how we prevent this from happening.
- There will be a story in the sun newspaper about it.
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- **Act-So**
- April 28<sup>th</sup> event. We had 8 gold medal winners. One student won 2 medals.
- 7 youth are going to the NAACP convention.
- Branch is paying expenses for gold medal winners' airfare and hotel.
- 2 young ladies will be in 2 rooms and 1 young lady is staying with parents.
- There will be 1 room for 2 young men. A room for khori and a room for Ms. Bessie
- A chaperone will help with getting the youth to their events.
- We are looking at doing a fundraiser similar to an oldie but goodie dance.
- Looking at Coldstone's behind the scenes mixing ice cream fundraiser.
- June will be settlement signing for High school 13. Vote was 3-2 in favor of moving forward.
- We attended the unity banquet and basketball event.
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- **Youth Council**
- April 22, 2019 at the Barn was when the last meeting was held.

- We determined Chairs for the various committees including criminal justice health, education and voting rights.
  - We volunteered at the college day event.
  - Saturday May 18, 2019 is Hoopin for Health which is the next event.
  - 4 students may be going to the conference.
  - President: Horizon gave a check last year. We can cover our delegates and 2 other people. \$20,000 is what they contributed last year.
  - Ms. Bordenave pointed out that traditionally the Branch gives a stipend of \$500.00 for youth participants.
  - President: We have to get all the money in from the Freedom Fund then pay expenses.
  - A total of 5 rooms need to be reserved and also flights.
- **Technology**
  - Meeting this Thursday May 16, 2019, at Starbucks in Wild Lake.
  - We completed the survey but the website capacity may limit our ability to do the survey well.
  - We do not have survey monkey available to us as a branch. Wild Apricot is a poll and not a survey.
  - Mr. Butera has an account but can't transfer the name of the account. The account would have his companies name on it. He will look into it.
  - Would like to connect with the contact at the Library to follow up and work with getting the County Executive to assist in some of the details for the forum.
  - Planning to have a survey; but need to discuss logistics. A number survey or Survey monkey could be used.
  - Future Forum event will take place in the fall.
- **EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**
  - College signing day was May 4, 2019, in partnership with the HCPSS, Black Student Achievement Program. This is an extension of Michelle Obama's initiative and a chance to rally around students who have commitment to higher education.
  - Had a pep rally in the morning and workshops
  - Good event but needed more students. There were other events like the SAT and proms going on that day.
  - 3 Educational committee members participated in the simulated congressional hearings.
  - Ms. Bostick indicated that county is committed to Dr. Seuss in spite of racism to African Americans and Asians there is a resistance in the school system.
  - President pointed out there is a new theme with Read Across America day of diverse readers, which does not rely only on Dr. Seuss.
  - It was noted that NEA sent out very specific set of materials that excluded Dr. Seuss.
- **Legal Redress**
  - We are over seeing several cases most have to do with HCPSS.
  - A lot of retaliation going on once reporting is done.
  - We are structuring a legal defense fund using as mechanism to bring in \$100 per hour to lawyers so they get a discount if they join with a membership.
  - To participate in Next Gen have to become a lifetime member so thinking something like that.
  - Mr. Butera pointed out that with a life membership for younger people you need to do cost benefit analysis because you'd be losing a lot of money.
  - It is a financial burden to the organization in the end.
  - We need a strategy to deal with it.
- **Golf Tournament**

- August 26, 2019 is the golf tournament fundraising event. We are looking at raising \$20,000
- Event will take place at Turf Valley. Free lessons are available.
- There is a volunteer committee, Golf Committee and Sponsorship Committee.
- **Membership**
- Want to include a question why did you join the NAAP in their survey.
- 10 questions are Free on Survey Monkey
- Questions for the survey are gender, age, how long have you been an NAACP member and questions associated with youth.
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- **Marketing**
- Marketing and Membership is doing well combined.
- New email [web@howardcountynaacp.com](mailto:web@howardcountynaacp.com)
- Expanding facebook and social media presence
- Exploring summer event wikipedia, which has bias content. Want to pull diverse group together for updates.
- Looking to do a survey of why people are members.
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- **Elder Empowerment**
- Jenna Crawley, Office of Aging is sending out survey to see if people are using the 50 plus centers.
- There is a feeling that people using the 50 plus centers are older so want to know If it is helpful.
- Elder empowerment event will invite Ms. Shepherd a senior body builder will do exercises. We will have mental health professional in the afternoon. Also aging in place information will be held in the afternoon.
- Looking to ask the Encore group for sponsorship.
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- **Branch Capacity**
- We have to support each other and bring in more people.
- Volunteer organization so we need to figure out a way to bring people in to sustain it.
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- **Old Business**
- Memorial Day tribute at Harriet Tubman School on May 27, 2019, 7:55am. They will raise the flag and play Taps.
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- **New Business**
- June 14, 2019 there will be a job Fair at Oakland Mills for 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders to be hired
- June 15<sup>th</sup> is Juneteenth.
- **MOTION: Mike Butera made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Brooks seconded the motion.**