

NAACP Howard County Branch
Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Date: June 8, 2020
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Zoom call due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Attendees:

Willie Flowers	Rev. Dr. Barbara Morton
Lynda Earle	Sarah Thorne
Stephanie Wall	Don Cash
Laura Johnson	Gregory Lawrence
Cynthia Fikes	Janssen Evelyn
Becca Niburg	Christina Bostick
Mike Butera	Keisha Shepherd
Colleen Hughes	Jerry Rescigno
Jennifer Jones	Richard Shepherd
Alicia Whye	

Moment of Silence:

For our dear, long time members who recently passed: Dr. General Jenkins Odoms, Dr. Booth and Cecil Christian.

President's Report-Willie Flowers

- Invited young people to join us on the call to help brainstorm.
- We want to expose them to Next Gen and to the organizational layers.
- **MOTION: Mike Butera made a motion to approve the agenda. Jerry Rescigno seconded the motion.**
- No one could have been prepared for what has happened in the last week.
- Traditionally, NAACP had roles in boycotts and demonstrations. When we do demonstrations, the National Association wants to know what is being done so that if litigation results, the activity already met approval.
- Unlike the NAACP, Black Lives Matter doesn't have an organizational head.
- The NAACP strategy is that we can support demonstrations.
- From a leadership perspective, we do work that is significant to our Branch.
- Becca got us involved with the demonstration that occurred at the Mall on Tuesday June 5th. We were asked to provide water and we did that.
- We have a position open for Community Organization.

- The National Association has come out with a campaign called, “We are Done Dying.” It was initially a response to Corona Virus, but has pivoted toward addressing police brutality. This is a campaign we can run with.
- This campaign will connect us with what the National Organization is doing and send a statement about where we stand.
- In these times, masterminds and young people can help define our role.
- No Freedom Fund or 5K this year; so finances are not where it was last year.
- We need to make an appeal for membership and funding.
- The situation with the Board of Education has been a little insecure over the last two years; but could be worse. Everyone is gearing up for the elections.

First Vice President- Christina Bostick

- Idea to support the movement for those unable to join the protestors.
- The Idea is a street light campaign that encourages people to put a black light in their window. It is called, “Light the Way Black”; the idea comes from the oil lamps from the Underground Railroad.
- *Question: What does the black light symbolize? Is it a sign that protestors can go there for shelter or help if needed? What does it do?
- *Answer: The goal is more symbolic. A lot of people at home can’t protest or go into the street and can demonstratively show their support.
- Several people suggested that we focus instead on legislative changes or identify top 2 legislative priorities to focus on for actionable items like the issue of qualified immunity.
- There was a suggestion that the black lights go In front of churches.
- President Flowers shared the idea of yard signs in addition to promoting the ‘We are Done Dying’ campaign.
- 1st. VP said, the goal is to coincide black light idea with the fourth of July.

Secretary – Lynda Earle, Asst. Secretary

- **MOTION: Mike Butera made a motion to approve the May 11, 2020, Executive Committee minutes. Janssen Evelyn seconded the motion.**

Treasurer- Richard Shepherd

- Report is from January 1, 2020-May 31, 2020.
- Not much income generated. \$1494.30 received from dues.
Expenses in the amount of \$8,154.51 leaving a -\$660.21 negative operating income.
- Primary reason for this is that there was no income from 5K race or Freedom Fund; but we had Freedom Fund Expenses.
- There is \$6,413.44 in our operating account
- The 2019 financial Report has been submitted to Nationals and the assessment of \$750.00 has been paid in full. We are in total compliance as a branch.

- They are no longer issuing paper checks for our portion of the dues paid and will now use direct debit.
- **MOTION: Mike Butera moved to accept the treasurer's report. Janssen Evelyn seconded the motion.**

ACT-SO- Not on the call

- ACT-SO is not happening this year and there will be a virtual competition.
- **Education-** Laura Johnson
- Howard County Public Schools continuity of learning is happening.
- We are in phase three and 99% of students log on to distant learning.
- 16,800 chrome books have been distributed to students and 750 devices to teachers.
- Families are going through hardships and the schools are making efforts to maintain phone calls and have virtual graduations.
- School System is partnering with Howard Hughes Corp. to light up Merriwether Post Pavilion for graduation.
- MSDE guidance is being followed on how to reopen schools safely.
- June 11, 2020, a Hearing will be held on the Educational Equity Public Policy.
- Board of Education Candidate's Forum was held and went well.
- Looking at summer as an equity issue and in partnership with the Round Table there will be a State of Black Howard County.
- Dr. Calvin Ball is supportive of a summer program for 14-20 years old earning and learning which will provide a good opportunity.
- This is a unique time and we are open to ideas to serve students.

Health – Keisha Shepherd and Jerry Rescigno

- Would like to do a membership survey to figure out what the needs are.
- We want to grow our committee.
- Interested in doing something on cooking from food with the garden and tackle issues on discrimination in health care.
- Lack of availability and disparity of outcomes is glaring.
- We want to get ready for a time when we can have some initiative like health care availability and quality of health care. The spotlight is now.
- Times are difficult with both the Corona Virus and the violence.

Public Safety- Greg Lawrence

- The demonstration went well in Howard County. Would like to think about residency in terms of who works in public safety in the county. Having residents in the field who live in the County will do a lot for communication.
- A comment was made to be careful about going down the slippery slope of requiring workers to reside in Howard County.

- Public Safety committee is concerned about the potential for Covid exposure at the demonstrations and noted that masks still need to be worn.
 - There was a question about whether public safety will take a look at anything we can advocate like Federal legislation surrounding qualified immunity or examine use of force standards etc.
 - Howard County is progressive when it comes to community policing.
- **Freedom Fund-** Stephanie Wall
 - Need to decide whether we want to do a virtual event or stick with rescheduled date of September 26, 2020.
 - Nationals are saying no one is having a Freedom Fund this year.
 - We will look at the first weekend in May next year. President suggested we could look at a Sunday evening.
 - Discussed a black wine company virtual fundraiser.
 - Discussed heading a virtual fundraiser with a donation page or selling items. Discussion about how much the minimum “ask” should be.
 - Alicia, Stephanie, Janseen, TiQuania, Colleen, Richard, Jennifer and Cynthia will work on this effort.
- **Environmental Climate Justice-** Cynthia Fikes
 - We are in the middle of spring harvest. We have kale, lettuce, cauli flower
 - Wednesday at 5:00pm is the next volunteer event.
 - Instagram social media coming together.
 - Raising a Fence for a second spot on Saturday. Second site is at a 7th day Adventist church in Fulton.
 - Need people not just in the dirt but also for communications and administrative needs.
 - TiQuonia is interested in participating on the ground and administratively.
 - Janssen shared that we have doubled space and finishing a second space. Planting takes place this weekend.
 - Eradicating hunger and attacking it from a nutritional point of view.
 - Environmental and justice planning grant is what connected us to the project.
- Religious** – Rev. Dr. Barbara Morton
- Earlier on asked for list of churches involved with the NAACP so I could reach out. Still waiting for the list.
 - President indicated that many people had life memberships from a long time ago; members my have changed. Will provide a list.
 - Cynthia will mention this at her church meeting tonight
- **Legal Redress-**

Marketing- Colleen Hughes

- Things changing fast. Monthly newsletter is challenging. Send topics for June and July if you have anything.

Membership

- We are pushing membership
- President will check in with Tiffany to see what's going on there.
- **Mature Adults-** Not on the call
- **Political Action-** Not on the call
Will be tied into recent events and voting.
- **Technology-** Mike Butera
- Zoom meetings are pro bono with my account. We can save money for now.
- Survey from technology committee is ready to go out to membership
- We are on hold until we get past the pandemic.
- The Branch has a survey monkey account.
- **Young Adults-** Not on the Call
- **President-**
- Anyone interested in working elections please let us know.
- Becca and Herb are heading Howard County for Biden.
- We can have a prepared response to Local protests and demonstrations if enough people can participate. We can come together to promote merchandise and organize.
- National does not want us to do certain things because of Corona Virus.
- TiQuoria suggested that we collaborate with a group in DC called the Freedom Fighters DC. We can speak when they protest and lend support.
- Aftermath is bigger than just the police. Given systemic racism, we need to put all the voices together for the Aftermath agenda for Corona Virus.
- General meeting will be on June 25th.
- We can focus on post protest priorities.
- It was suggested that we have a town hall for a separate meeting for the aftermath discussion because of the details needed in preparing.
- NEW BUSINESS- a council member in MC is proposing a resolution to identify racism as a public health emergency.
- Don Cash reminded us about the day long Poor People's Campaign that will take place in DC. We will get details.
- **MOTION: Don Cash made a motion to adjourn. Janssen Evelyn seconded the motion.**

Mission: The Mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.