

Wakefield Human Rights Commission  
Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Day Planning Subcommittee  
11/30/2020

Present:

Nicole Jacob (WHRC)  
Jeremy Little (WHRC)  
Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez (WHRC)  
Benny Wheat (WHRC)  
Eileen Rooney (from the public)

1. Introductions: what was your ONE favorite thing from a past year's MLK Day event (or another MLK Day event you've been to?)
  - Youth component: poems, speeches, etc.
  - Keynote speaker or presentation
  - Powerful youth voices
  - Keynote will help guide us for the rest of the event
2. Theme
  - "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members." - CSK
    - Compassionate Action
    - Compassionate Community
    - A More Compassionate Wakefield?
    - Are We a Compassionate Community?
    - Is it a statement, or a question to challenge people, or a directive?
    - **Take Compassionate Action** → we choose this one
  - Dr. King also talked about the "beloved community"
  - People may know less about Mrs. King, so we can also bring education around that
3. Ideas for components of the event
  - There could be lead-up activities/videos, then the celebration, then the service project
  - Keynote -
    - How long should a keynote be on a zoom? Maybe 10-15 min if it's just someone speaking. The length can be somewhat up to the speaker. We can be flexible.
    - How long should the whole event be?
    - Is the keynote live, interactive, or pre-recorded? Pre-recorded or live webinar style talk would be less complex than an interactive zoom with breakout groups
    - Our first choice is Faith or a pair or small group of students
    - We should also talk about a second choice or third choice in case Faith and her classmates aren't up for it. Or we could ask them for connections to other students

- There's also a student who recently wrote a book. And another youth who did a project volunteering for an animal shelter
- We could also have a panel format for the keynote portion instead of a spotlight only on one person. Like "what does compassionate action mean to you?"
- It would be great to include something about how to still practice compassionate action during COVID. How COVID is impacting our ability to be compassionate, and how to alleviate that. How to get creative
- Do we have a budget to pay for a speaker? Yes, pretty sure we can pay. And we could offer to give a stipend to any keynote, including the youth.
- Service Project:
  - The day-of celebration will be a kick-off for the service project
  - The service project could be for an extended time, like through March. Then have a wrap-up event or something to celebrate all the service hours
  - Could have somewhere on the website where people can submit and track all the service hours in town. (like a heart that fills up as people submit their hours)
  - Could have a hashtag so people can tag photos and share their experiences
  - Metco Family Friends Program: this is on the list for possible service opportunities, but that doesn't seem quite right. Normally families get involved because their kids are friends with a student in the Metco program. Not just randomly volunteering from the community. This would have optics of saviorism, wanting to save the poor Boston kids. Things like that. Teresa will reach out to Wakefield's Metco Program Director to see what her thoughts are about the HRC encouraging families to get involved.
- Awards:
  - Should we have the same 3 award categories?
  - The only downside is if we have very few nominations in a category. If that happens we can condense some categories
  - Could also do a symbolic award for all the nurses and frontline workers
  - Post for people to nominate: on the theme of Compassionate Action
  - Set a deadline of by the end of the year
- Youth Component:
  - Could we connect with some classrooms (like social studies) and incorporate their work into the event somehow?
  - We could see if they're doing anything, some classrooms may already have something planned
- Art
  - slide show of students from the schools or other people in the community
  - We could have an art competition and give a gift card prize for winners. Promote it through the schools
  - Time is not on our side for the schools because they often have their stuff already planned out
  - We will contact the art teachers to see if they are already planning an MLK day project and if so we can incorporate that work. If they are not already planning

something we don't want to put an extra thing on their plate, so we can do an artwork competition and promote that through the schools.

- Music
  - music over the slide show from a student music group.
  - We might have to consider whether there are copyright issues
  - And the student music groups may not be meeting at all right now.
- Scavenger Hunt

#### 4. Next Steps / Action Items

- Keynote: Benny will reach out to Faith
- Service Project: we will each reach out to one or two organizations (see spreadsheet)
- Awards: Benny will post call for nominations
- School / youth projects: Theresa will reach out to Galvin, Nicole will reach out to Boys and Girls Club
- Art: Teresa will reach out to the Galvin art teacher, Nicole will reach out to the art teacher for the elementary schools.