

# MLKJr. Day Planning Committee

## Wrap Up Meeting (Online)

### MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	1/31/23	<b>Called to Order (Time):</b>	7:05 pm
<b>Present:</b>	Joanne Ladio, Carolyn Stilwell, Gordon Schleicher, Kelly Stoker, Dave Gilbert		
	Reports received from Jennifer Smith (Sr. Center) and Winn Mahoney (Silver Maples) prior to meeting		

#### **BUDGET Summary**

Spent: \$929 total spent

- \$128 printing (posters, certificates, cards (Chamber of Commerce printed some free)
- \$142 on cups (color changing – “Be the Change”)
- \$25 Facebook post boosts
- \$399 blankets (38 blankets total)
- \$150 Honorarium for CLARA presenter
- \$85 additional books for Community Read

Received - \$800

- \$500 from Bridge Builders Grant - Michigan Municipal League Foundation
- \$200 from HRC
- \$100 from OWOF
- **\$129 – needs funding. Can anyone help?**

Cups had been intended as Challenge Card prizes. They were also given to partners and others who participated in planning and implementing the events.

#### **OVERALL comments:**

##### **Positive**

- Felt like a success – advertised well. Community knew it was happening
- Inclusiveness felt strong - with different partners and groups - accepted across political groups
- Felt like a more normalized/community effort - becoming a part of the culture of the city
- Next year, try to increase the number of groups/organizations to co-sponsor
- Make sure to note which events drew the most interest and place those at the head of the list for next year
- Liked that we encompassed all different age groups

- Multigenerational activities allowed for families to attend
- Thought it was valuable - it was nice to have a celebration with so many choices available
- Like the idea of a souvenir of the event

### **Deltas - (Opportunities for Change)**

- Would have appreciated a Zoom accessible event for the Covid cautious
- Trying to keep publicity going for two weeks was hard
- Maybe overall time frame was too long
- Started planning too late - need to start sooner
- Could hold one day with many events, and a follow-up non-competing event on a different day (like one that is more intentional perhaps)
- Emphasize events that can be joined by families
- Challenge cards were hard to put together - we only had 4-5 cards completed
  - Maybe have a reward for # of events attended or # of stamps collected, etc.
- Focus on theme of National Day of Service - things people can get their hands on/do something
  - Perhaps a community project
  - More entities and more time for planning could result in creating something for the community
  - And for the communities around us - look outwardly
- Music could be a focus - multigenerational - (Talk to Kelly Stoker about possibly using her church)
  - There was a previous well-attended OWOF event where folks sang songs from the civil rights era
- Reach out to companies for donations
- Reach out to individuals for donations and help
- Grant may have been somewhat limiting in what we could and couldn't do
- Put out a donation can at each event (not charge for participating)
- Make a budget well in advance to make it easier to get donations
- Make a list of the tasks that are needed to make MLK day happen - so someone can take it over
- Another idea is to host a luncheon with community pastors etc.
- Have each organization do their own thing and report back
  - Just need to start earlier
- Need larger planning group to disperse the tasks
- Consider name tags for events to promote community

### **THOUGHTS on SPECIFIC Events**

#### **Youth Essay Contest - Kiwanis**

- Three submissions - all won (2nd, 4th, 6th)

- Worth doing again
- Need better coordination with school system
- Earlier start should help with this
  - Can get into school newsletter but must be at least 3 months ahead of time
    - There's a form online - on the school webpage
  - Possibly connect with Marcus Kaemming
- Getting teachers aware of it
- Having an actual prize may result in more submissions
- School office staff was thrilled to discover that their student won
- How about a poster campaign in the high school to get students interested in the essay contest? Or, get the writing teachers involved (rather than going through the parents).
- Comments on the essays and pictures were very much appreciated by the kids & families.

#### **Celebrating Diversity through food - Senior Center**

- 40 seniors and 20 students (3rd-5th grades) attended
  - Kids were from afterschool care
- Dishes were cooked and brought in
- Interested in participating again
- Would like more youth to attend
- Was difficult to hear in the back rows - recommendation for microphone/speaker

#### **Storyteller - Chelsea District Library**

- Performer was good
- Informative and learned a lot.
- Attended by kids and families
- Creative way to share information
- Audience participation was a nice feature

#### **Blankets for refugees – Material Girls**

- Went really well – about 90 people participated
- Material girls separately made 10 blankets and donated.
- Money spent paid for 27 blankets
- People really enjoyed making the blankets
- Taking the pictures was a good idea - it was easy to share and get the word out to a lot of people

#### **Valentines – Material Girls**

- 200+ valentines were made. Could easily do more.
- Small amount paid for paper - the rest was donated by Material Girls
- Younger kids were able to participate in this one
- Can expand this to nursing homes and other areas
- Part of the 90 people participating

**Safe House/Ozone House collection** – Orchid Orthopedics & Sliver Maples

- A lot of things were donated
- Went well
- Was nice to have a local business sponsor it – good publicity for them
- Someone at the lumber yard was happy to be involved
- Acknowledging the companies involved may get more participation

**City Government** – City of Chelsea

- More of a presentation than reception - was done well
- They want to do it again or something similar
- Good questions. About 20 people, including several youth
- About 6 people went for the tour

**CLARA Training-** One World One Family

- Had a nice article in the print edition of The Chelsea Guardian
- Could have used more advertising to attract more participation
- It was at the end of a busy day
- About 10 people for the training

**Interviews of Social Justice Movements** – Human Rights Commission

- No interviews came in
- No one showed up at the discussion
- Perhaps have a panel discussion, or something less demanding

**Activism Movie** – Social Action Committee of UMRC

- 12 people were there. Good discussion after.
- May have been helpful to have a different movie - something more related to the day
  - Could have coordinated with the interviews
- Again - starting sooner would help

**Movie about Dr. King and discussion** - St Louis Center

- Many residents were there - movie night - cartoon version of the life of MLK Jr.
- (3) Students from the CHS Interact Club attended
- About 30 students from St. Louis Center plus (5) community members
- Broke up into 4 different groups with residents, staff, and HS students et al had discussions with the talking points

**Washtenaw Reads:**

- Was an add on - would be nice to have a book to read/discuss
- Discussion may be a good option to do over zoom
- The book was about breaking stereotypes - interesting choice for a community read
  - Author was coming to Ann Arbor and Serendipity discussion scheduled in Feb. so no additional events planned

- (5) additional books purchased and donated to Library to assist in community participation

**Closing event:**

- Good to have a formal closing
- Very little attendance – about 10
- Video of MLK Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech and the Black National Anthem played and well-received
- Maybe having a panel discussion at the end would have helped
  - Discuss the laws at the time and how they changed
  - Bring in discussion of Jim Crow Laws etc
  - Keep movie and song

<b>Action Items:</b>	
Dave Gilbert	Get HS students names so they can get cups
Everyone	Think of who can be project managers on each event and the overall collection of activities
	Alert Joanne for a "Be the Change" cup