

G. Body 3/21/19

Called to order at 7.01 pm by LaSella H.

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Peggy

Minutes read by E Okhipo

Motion to adopt minutes made by R. Ledbetter, seconded by Ray P

● Presidents report

- General information, we, the NAACP New Bedford Branch are in region 2
- **May 3rd to 4th, 2019:** Region 2 training on civil rights advocacy training institute. To help us expand our knowledge as NAACP members.
- National board of directors met on Feb 16th, 2019 in NY city. Huge push to get college students and younger people involved in voting.
- **Directors report from national youth**
 - Annual New England civil rights hall of fame dinner is set for Saturday April 27th, 2019. Branch will support the gala by purchasing a table of 10.
 - Ray P. is asked to reach out to the ACLU regarding Malcom Gracia case. In addition, we would like to appreciate him, Ray, for his efforts.
 - LaSella H. reached out to Lee Charlton. Report is very disturbing. LH will draft a letter and put out a statement. It will pass through the E-board.
- **NEAC meeting update by Bert B.:**
 - NEAC met in west Medford.
 - Focused on Charter schools and its effect on public schools in terms of the budget.
 - Spoke about membership recruitment.
 - Next meeting is Saturday, June 8th, 2019 in Rockland MA.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept president report by Richard leary, seconded by Peggy D
- Motion to table treasures report to end of meeting by Renne L, seconded by Ron.
 - Motion carried

Committee report

- Marketing committee
 - Brian Towne: Looked for a company that can host website.
 - Next step in establishing the website is picking a domain name. Suggested names: NAACPNEWBEDFORD.ORG or NEWBEDFORDNAACP.ORG.
 - Lasella H: We have to put the NAACP first before the city per national order. Urges for NAACPNEWBEDFORDMA.ORG
 - Discussion: to drop the MA from the name.
 - Btowne noted that there is a 30 day refund
 - Drea and Towne will work to maintain website. Eventually fall on the marketing committee.
 - Website host is blue box

- Will be up and running before the next branch meeting. Projected date is 4/18/2019
 - Lasella H.: Move to vote to approve the website.
 - Moved by Richard L. seconded by Raun
 - Yes:18 No:0 Abstain:0 - motion passes
- Fundraising committee
 - NAACP fundraising dinner by Bruce rose
 - Bus trip by Renee to Foxwood in May 11th, 2019.
 - 4pm – 12am
 - Private reception at the home of David H
 - Do you have Ideas for fundraising?
 - See Renee L. or LaSella H.
- Freedom fund breakfast
 - went out to the execute committee who was in favor
 - Motioned by Bert, seconded by D. Healy. Motion passed.
 - Tickets in the print shop
 - The general body is asked to sell tickets
 - Director of NAACP Washington will be at the breakfast
 - Selling ads for book (solicit BSHS – private note)
- **Presentation by Dr. Rosa and Dr. Solar (New Bedford coalition to save our schools)**
 - Efforts focused on resisting charter expansion in the city and building strong quality public schools.
 - The new charter school wants 1,580 seats, costing the New Bedford public school (NBPS) system \$50mil and layoffs.
 - A deal cut behind closed door without community involvement – 480 seats (former Kempton seats).
 - The charter school entry will not be by lottery but instead the public school will assign students to the charter school – this has never been done before in MA.
 - This was done to circumvent question #2.
 - Department of education sees NB as a model that can be implemented across MA in Holyoke, Brockton, etc.
 - There are a number of externalities not mentioned that will cost NB more than was stated.
 - The NB kids will be forced to attend the charter school despite parents input.
 - Push back is against mayor Mitchell and the state.
 - Public schools should be the default and parents should opt-in rather than forcing students to opt-out of sending their kids to the charter schools. The opt-out is not guaranteed to be honored by the superintendent. The form will also create a language barrier as many parents might not fully understand the gravity of the form.
 - Creating the New Bedford students bill of rights where students, middle and high school students, are articulating the type of school system they need. It will also inform students of their rights such as food quality, school infestation by mice, Police officers presence in schools.

- Asking the participation of the NAACP, especially the young folks in the G. body.
- LaSella H. next steps: To put together a forum with the NBCSOS, NAACP NB college chapter, and NAACP NB branch.
- **Presentation by Christina regarding Fair housing month in April.**
 - Eric suggested to tie in gentrification into the statement to be released.
 - With corrected edits and statements, motion to approve article that will go into the standard times in April for fair housing month.
 - Motion by Renee, seconded by Renee L
- **Presentation by Eric**
 - The use of the word thug has its history in colonialism in Asia – gives the right to arrest based on association and no actual crime committed.
 - Awareness regarding the word and the situations that arise regarding the word.
- **Announcement(s)**
 - Free course on Martin Luther king starts on Monday
 - They do not have black heritage stamps on display at the post office.
 - April is black history women's month.
 - Vagina monologues by Ayden H.

Meeting adjourned by Bert at 8.21pm. Seconded by Renee L.