

**Martin Luther King Recognition Task Force**

8/24/2017

Minutes

Members present: Councilor Ali, Matt Suslovic, Dawud Ummah, Merita McKenzie

Members absent: Herb Adams , Danielle Conway, Dawud Ummah, Daniel Minter, Regina Phillips, Blanca Santiago

Staff present: Troy Moon

Welcome and introductions:

Councilor Ali called the meeting to order.

No quorum so minutes could not be approved.

Discussion

Dawud – concerned that we address difficult issues head on. It is time to have an honest conversation and address issues around race.

Councilor Ali indicated that he had received a recommendation from a resident that we look at Standpipe Park (Fort Sumner Park) as a candidate location to rename for Dr. King.

Councilor Ali confirmed with the Economic Development committee that the final design of Portland Landing is not done and new ideas could be contributed.

Dawud is interested in an endeavor that could generate funds to support work related to the legacy of Dr. King.

Councilor Ali indicated that the mission of the committee is to name a location to honor Dr. King. Building a center is outside the scope.

Discussion about how the center for immigrants came to be established. Dawud feels that the City of Portland needs a Martin Luther King Center.

Councilor Ali indicated that conversation is for a different setting.

The committee had some discussion about Standpipe Park (Fort Sumner Park) and its history.

Matt asked whether there had been further conversations with the Friends of Congress Park.

Merita suggested that a name change for Congress Square might be welcome. There have been many names in the past. A deliberate name change could be good.



Matt indicated interest in recognizing several individuals in addition to Dr. King. Merita agreed with Matt.

The group reviewed the elements of Portland Landing and its extent. Councilor Ali indicated that the Parks, Rec and Facilities Department will be creating a foundation to raise funds for Portland Landing. Construction could be in 2019.

Discussion of when to meet next – Many people cannot make it on August 28. After checking calendars the next meeting is set for Sept. 12 at 4:30.

Councilor Ali – the next steps would be to make a recommendation to Sustainability and Transportation Committee. We will meet on September 12 to continue the conversation. Would like a recommendation by October.