

Paul Lawrence Dunbar Alumni Scholarship Picnic Foundation Meeting Minutes

Call to Order (6:45 p.m.)

The meeting was held at Smoked Filled Room on Friday, January 26, 2018. Board members present: Kelly Gill, Sylvia L. Davis, Stephanie Jackson, Centra R. Lee-Cade, Teresa Freelon, Michelle Harris and Benjamin Lee. Class group leaders in attendance: Angela Dudley (1976); Marion Clay (1981); Shaneen Jackson (1987); Armecia Cooper (1988); Raquel Hutchins-Curry (1989); Ebony Wilson (1998); Tierra Jackson (2002); Tanika Taylor (2008) and LaTierra Randle (2009)

Reports

Treasurer

Currently we have about \$1,175.00 (estimated) minus the \$385.82 (website) and \$37.50 (Chicago Park District Application Fee). We received \$100 in donation from Giving Tuesday. Our donation from Giving Tuesday was not match because we did not receive enough in donations.

Scholarship

Scholarship applications have been given to the school for dissemination and are due from the students by April 1, 2018. Students can also retrieve applications from the Alumni Association and Paul Lawrence Dunbar Alumni Scholarship Picnic Foundation website. Shari Nichol-Sweats makes daily announcement encouraging the students to apply.

Currently the school has only one college counselor. We have been advised that we can prepare a grant for the school to hire another college counselor. Ebony Wilson (1989) will connect the committee with a grant writer.

Picnic Location

Forest Preserve

Kelly spoke with Park District Representative in September 2017 who wanted us to lock in a date and pay in full for the 2018 picnic, but we did not have the money. If we have the picnic in the Forest Preserve we will lose about three generations of alumni support because they want to have it Chicago.

Chicago Park District – Dunbar Park

Representatives from the Chicago Park District attended one of the Local School Council (LSC) meetings to request approval to use Dunbar Park for the 2018 Special Olympics. Apparently, the Special Olympics was held at Dunbar Park many years ago and since 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics they want to hold the event at Dunbar Park. Their request was approved.

Kelly used the opportunity to speak with the Park District Representative about our inability to use Dunbar Park for our annual picnic. The representative gave Kelly a verbal approval for our usage of Dunbar Park. When Kelly submitted the application with Dunbar Park as our choice it was immediately rejected although we had approval from everyone we needed approval from. It was determined that the Park District Representative that gave the verbal approval did not have the authority to do so.

On January 16, 2018 Kelly sent an email to Sophia King, Alderman of the 4th Ward where both the school and Washington Park are located. Alderwoman King meet with the Chicago Park District on Friday, January 26, 2018 and will contact Kelly after the meeting to schedule a meeting with to discuss the picnic.

Update on Past Recipients

We will reach out to the past scholarship recipients to invite them out to the different events. Effective immediately a spreadsheet will be prepared listing contact information, school attended, amount received from each scholarship recipient, etc.

Collection of Class Fees

Donations in the amount of \$550 (per class) are due by April 15, 2018. To date class donations are coming in very slow. They can be made directly through the website. In order to have a scholarship in your class name the class must donate \$750.00. Class leaders should keep a tally of donations made by their classmates.

Fundraising Campaign

Board Member Teresa Freelon is gracious enough to allow us to use her place of business, Smoked Filled Room, to have a fundraiser party at no cost (additional information is noted below). There will be a 50/50 Raffle, a Table Raffle and box for guest to donate. We are asking each class to donate a raffle prize. Stephanie Jackson, Teresa Freelon and Centra (Co-Co) Lee-Cade will chair the event. Please contact Centra and let her know what your class will be donating by March 1, 2018 and value of the donation. Rachel Huchins-Curry (1989) will make the donation box.

**Friday, March 16, 2018
8:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
“Blue and Gold Makes Green Social”
Smoke Filled Room
3357 West 79th Street
Chicago, IL**

Other fundraising ideas – Golfing Event, High Tea, Comedy Show

Miscellaneous

Literra Randle (2009) will keep the alumni updated about the school via Facebook.

Action Items

Follow up with Alderwoman

Picnic location

Fundraiser – March 16, 2018

Scholarship Applications due 4/1/2018

Class donations due 4-15-2018

Grant for College Counselor at Dunbar

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting concluded at 8:47 p.m.

Sylvia L. Davis

Secretary