

Minutes
Meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
December 5, 2013

Call to Order

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission met on December 5, 2013 in Conference Room 3106T of the Department of Administration (DOA) Building, 116 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC. Mr. Clarence Henderson, Chairman of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 9:51am.

Chairman Henderson requested that Commissioner Dr. Dumas Harshaw open the meeting with a prayer. After the prayers, meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the Board in attendance were Chairman Clarence Henderson, Commissioners Anitra Bailey, Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Dr. Troy Kickler, Ms. Jacquie Jeffers, Mr. Larry Jones, Ms. Melissa Martin, Mr. Warren Turner, Mr. Kenneth Freeman, Mr. Donnie Garris, Mr. Bennett McCoy Taylor, Mr. Shakeal Moore and Mr. Douglas Williams.

Commissioners Dr. Tony Mitchell, Mr. David Prince, Ms. Vancine Sturdivant were absent.

Also attending were Emily Williams, Executive Director of the NC Human Relations Commission (NCHRC); Mary Curtis, NCHRC/Martin Luther King, Jr. Program Coordinator; Judy Jefferson, Director of Community & Constituent Affairs; and Alicia Johnson, Community & Constituent Affairs.

Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2013

The minutes of the last meeting were provided to the Commission. Minutes were reviewed by Commission and approved without amendments. Commissioner Anitra Bailey agreed to serve as Secretary for the Commission.

Committee Reports

None reported

Unfinished Business

None reported

New Business

Triangle Interfaith Breakfast-January 20,2014

Commissioner Martin contacted event Coordinator Pam Thompson-Smith. A sponsored table for twelve MLK Commissioners was reserved at a cost of \$500. Commissioners that will be able to attend the Triangle Interfaith Prayer Breakfast are: Chairman Henderson, Commissioner

Martin, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Freeman, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Jeffers, Commissioner Bailey, Commissioner Kickler, and Commissioner W. Douglas Williams.

State Employees Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Program and John R. Larkins Award Ceremony – January 17, 2014

Judy Jefferson, Director of Community & Constituent Affairs requested the assistance of the Commission to select the cover for the commemorative booklet for this event. The cover will be selected from a statewide Art Contest between grades K-12. The art piece will be an original creation by a student and it will be their interpretation of the “Content of Character” theme of the FY 2014 MLK Grant Program. Currently, 50-75 drawings have been submitted. The first-place winner’s drawing will be on the cover of the commemorative booklet, second-, third- and fourth-place drawings will be expanded to poster-size and displayed at the First Baptist Church during the State Employees Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Program. Chairman Henderson asked that Commissioners Jeffers, Martin, and Bailey assist Mrs. Jefferson with the selection of the art piece on behalf of the Commission.

Discussion about the budget for the State Employee MLK Celebration Budget.

Concerns included:

- Cost of Booklets- Commissioner Martin expressed concern about the quality of the printed booklet relative to its low cost. Alicia Johnson discussed the costs of printing and provided an example of the booklet.
- Cost of Performances - The amount budgeted was \$1000. Alicia Johnson clarified questions and concerns and explained the budgeted amount on performance was based on gas, travel, and honorariums.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the State Employee MLK Celebration Budget with the modification of the performance budget be adjusted to \$750. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

Bell Ringing Ceremony

The Let Freedom Ring bell ringing ceremony will be held at 11:30 am on Friday, January 17, prior to the State Employees Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Program.

Commissioners who plan to attend the Bell Ringing and State Employees MLK Observance Program include Commissioners Henderson, Bailey, Garris, Harshaw, Kickler, Moore, Taylro, Turner and Williams. Commissioner Jeffers will confirm her attendance by December 6, 2013. MLK Program Coordinator Mary Curtis will follow up with Commissioner Jones to see if he will be attending the events.

Budget Issues

Emily Williams, Executive Director of NCHRC. Director Williams shared her concerns that we utilize funding provided to address the mission on the Commission.

Commissioner Turner shared with the Commission his concern that more funding for grants are needed and that as a commission we should have a measuring tool in place to reflect the number of applicants that we were unable to fund, to show there is a need for funding and that there are organizations doing and instilling the values of Dr. Martin Luther King. Commissioner Turner stated by having this information it would allow us to build case for additional funding. Emily shared the State of North Carolina generates a Suspension of Funding List (SOFL) that includes grantees that have failed to regularly report progress in the State's online grants reporting system. Chairman Henderson requested that Commissioner Turner chair the efforts leading the Commission in lobbying opportunities to speak with legislators. Commissioner Jeffers agreed to assist with the background information to assist with lobbying for additional funding.

Commissioner Kickler raised a question about the definition of meetings/quorum relative to communication among Commissioners, e.g., by email and telephone conversation. NCHRC's Legal Counsel, Richard Boulden, stated that non-voting topics can be communicated through staff; however the Commission can set its own communication rules as long as they do not conflict with the Statute. However, when emails are sent to State of NC personnel, these emails constitute public records.

FY 2014 MLK Grant Program

Grants were reviewed by teams, scored and discussed. Commissioner Bailey recused herself from any discussion or conversation regarding Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy's grant application, due to her volunteering serving as an advocate for this organization.

After scoring and discussion on the grants Commission Williams moved, and Commissioner Taylors seconded that the following be awarded to each organization:

1. Fayetteville/Cumberland County Ministerial Council- Requested \$2500.00 awarded \$2500.00
2. Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy- Requested \$2500.00, awarded \$2000.00
3. North Carolina Museum of History Foundation- Requested \$2300.00; awarded \$1500.00
4. Young Women of Promise, Inc- Requested \$2500.00; awarded \$1000.00

Executive Director Emily Williams will draft letters of acceptance and letters of rejection for applicants.

Content of Character Model

Commission Jeffers identified a school-wide activity from the www.mlk.gov website that tasked students with dissecting a text of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The text could be aired via dvd, or over the intercom, and aired at the same time over an entire school system. This activity would promote improvement in writing and communication skills.

Chairman Henderson recommended calling the initiative the Content of Character Movement. This initiative involved disseminating the meaning of Dr. King’s Content of Character speech across the State, providing schools with scripts, talking points on communication and mock trials.

Announcements

The next meeting of the MLK Commission will be held on Friday, January 17, 2014. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- March 20, 2014 and
- June 19, 2014

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Henderson.

Anitra Bailey

12.10.2013

Anitra Bailey, Secretary

Date

MLK Commission

