

NC MLK, Jr. Commission Meeting Minutes
10:00 am, July 12, 2019
YMCA Raleigh Office, 801 Corporate Center Drive,
Raleigh, NC

Present: Commissioners James White, Emanuel Ealy, Elton Futrell, Jamilla Hawkins, Immanuel Jarvis, Walter Rogers and Phillip Smith. Via conference call Commissioners Jacquie Jeffers and Larry Jones.

Absent: Commissioners Anitra Bailey, Lucy Dinner, Dumas Harshaw, Ann Huggins, and Kiana Rivers

Guests: Christy Agner, Cindy Olsen, Janet Hammonds and Peace Ajjiorotutu

Roll Call and Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by Chairman James White at 10:05 am. He began by sharing a prayer from a book entitled "Thou, Dear God: Prayers that Open Hearts and Spirits" by John Baldwin and shared a that the wording captures the journey of our commission. The Commission reviewed a photo of Dr. King in 1963 at Johnson C. Smith and discussed the relevance of Dr. King's mindset during the event.

Roll was called by Deputy Secretary Agner and the Conflict of Interest and Ethics statement were read. No Conflict of Interest were reported. Chairman White asked Commissioners to review the minutes from the April 26, 2019 Commission meeting and asked if there were any changes/corrections that needed to be made. Minutes were approved with several edits.

Commissioners reviewed a historic photo of a street sign with "E 5th Street → ← Martin Luther King Dr." above a street in Greenville, NC. Chairman White shared in 1960's when integration was starting this street sign appears to show there was a resistance to call the entire street Martin Luther King Dr. This street sign is still hanging in the town of Greenville.

Deputy Secretary Christy Agner outcomes of working with the State's summer interns. This commission was awarded a half scholarship to hire an intern to work with the Commission for ten weeks. Deputy Secretary Agner introduced Peace Ajjiorotutu, an intern for the Council for Women/Youth Involvement office. Peace recently graduated from high school and will be attending UNC Pembroke in the Fall. She stated she has an idea for a project for next year entitled, Millennials – She changed the World. Peace added, voting is a very important issue.

Intern Janet Hammond, assigned to work with the MLK Commission for ten weeks, introduced herself to Commissioners. Ms. Hammond is a native of Salisbury, NC and a master's student at UNC-Greensboro History Department. Ms. Hammonds began her Power Point Presentation and stated she will also email her presentation to Commissioners. Topics shared in her presentation were: Social Media Outreach – Main Facebook page. Ms. Hammonds encouraged Commissioners to post on the MLK Commission Facebook page. She stated there have been questions about using other forms of media and she has investigated Twitter as well as other accounts that could be linked to the Facebook page. Ms. Hammonds stated she does have a repository where everyone can store their information. Deputy Secretary Agner added there has been more interest and traffic on the MLK Commission Facebook page in the last few days. Ms. Hammonds commented she recently met with Chairman White, Commissioner Hawkins and Commissioner Dinner to talk about what they'd like to see. Ms. Hammonds stated she has collected pictures of Dr. King when he visited Broughton High School and UNC-Greensboro. Chairman White asked the question, how do we make sure we have pictures of all the Commissioners on the Facebook page? Ms. Hammond responded, "Tips for Sharing the Facebook Page" is covered in the Power Point presentation. She added an email has been sent to all MLK Commissioners to request their biographical information. Ms. Hammond reported the MLK Facebook page traffic has recently increased by 32%. Commissioner are reminded that they are eligible to serve as posters to the MLK Jr. Commission Facebook page.

Intern Janet Hammond shared the Asset Mapping with the Commissioners. Information on the map is organized by data through a back-end source with the visual representation available to the viewer. The map is a visual representation of all the areas in North Carolina that Dr. King visited and locations with Commemorative spaces to Dr. King in NC.

Commissioners discussed the difference between oral history versus interviews and some standard protocols involved in interviewing a subject for an oral history. Ms. Hammonds reviewed the benefits of video and transcription interviews,

options to find an Oral Historian to do the transcription, deciding who will be interviewed, adding pictures to include tags up top that clue a listener to specific portions of the interview and suggested questions to pose in interviews. The intern relayed expertise and equipment recommendations provided by Ellen Brooks with Natural and Cultural Resources, Archives and History, regarding a repository and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract.

Commissioner response to the intern's report:

-The intern's presentation includes significant work on the oral history framework and I'm excited about getting started.

-We now have recorded the places in North Carolina where Dr. Martin Luther King spoke.

-Your work will allow citizens to honor and celebrate Dr. King's whole life's journey.

Ms. Hammond also conducted research at the State Archives to learn what information has been filed on Dr. King and the history of the MLK Commission, as well as other private and public universities including Duke University, Bennett College, NCSU, UNCG. Commissioners asked are these canonized so we can check with them, so it's not duplicated and put the information on our Facebook page. Staff relayed they would like an introduction to Shaw University which has a good bit of information on Dr. King.

Commissioners discussed the value of the work towards the asset map, the oral history framework and the listing of commemorative spaces and how it can be used to enhance the oral history of Dr. King. Asset mapping allows people to see a one stop shop, the history of Dr. King and give a more comprehensive history of Dr. King and how it applies today.

Chairman White thanked Peace Ajiorotutu and Janet Hammond for their work and asked Commissioners to keep the information shared in mind as they continue their work. Chairman White commented all of us can engage in some immediate things we can do to move us in to the future. Commissioners discussed this work highlights a year of good progress to immediate and long-term plans for the Commission.

Commissioners discussed ideas and options for creating learning and legacy sharing throughout the year, as well as the bell ringing, the proclamation from the Governor and to acknowledge Coretta Scott King during the annual January Day of Service time frame. Chairman White urged a focus on the next five months in planning for Jan 2020. The group discussed ideas for a workshop, webinar or gathering of leaders working on King's legacy in April or summer. Conversation around potential media partners included UNC Black Issues Forum, videos available for employers to show, working with www.nationalservice.gov, and spokesperson roles for Commissioners. Discussion around specific inclusion of young leaders through film production videos and other artistic expression would engage a new generation.

Further discussion occurred on a previous approved motion for the Commission to host an event for statewide benefit. The summertime, specifically July, emerged as a desired time and planning discussions continued.

The Grant Program was discussed for FY 19-20. Commissioners determined a theme to promote civil discourse. Special focus is requested for events involved youth ages 15-21. Commissioners decided to restrict eligibility for applicants who did not receive funds in the previous year.

Chairman White closed the meeting with a photo of Dr. King a day after the bombing of the church in Birmingham, Alabama where four girls were killed. Commissioners discussed parallels to leaders today working in our communities.

Commissioner Jarvis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman White stated meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Cindy Olsen, Committee Clerk