

Minutes
Meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
September 18, 2014

Call to Order

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission met on September 18, 2014 in the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) Conference Room, Room 3106 T2 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.

Chairman Clarence Henderson and Commissioners Freeman, Harshaw, Jeffers, Jones, Kickler, Moore, Partee, Smith and Williams were present at the meeting. Commissioners Bailey, Garris, Martin, Mitchell, Sturdivant and Turner were absent.

Also attending were Bill Daughtridge, Secretary Department of Administration; Bill Bryan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Administration (DOA); and Emily Williams, Executive Director, NC Human Relations Commission.

Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Commissioner Harshaw delivered the invocation and the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oaths of Office for New Commissioners

Supreme Court Justice Paul M. Newby administered the Oaths of Office to new Commissioners, Derek Partee and Phillip Smith.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the August 21, 2014 and September 18, 2014 meetings were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Awards for Cadets of Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy

Chairman Henderson presented awards to three young cadets in the Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy for their outstanding submissions in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest:

- Michael Breeden, 3rd Place,
- Brenton Forde, 2nd Place,
- Frederick Russell, 1st Place.

The essay contest was a key outcome of the FY 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. grant awarded by the Commission to the Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy.

Executive Director Williams will develop a press release about the awards.

Let Freedom Ring, Bell Ringing Ceremony

The discussions of the Commission focused on the time frame and content of the Bell Ringing Service. The Commission concurred to start the service at 11:00 am, with plans to conclude the service no later than 11:30 am. At this time, attendees will walk to First Baptist Church, Wilmington Street, for the State Employees Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance Program.

Commissioner Jeffers requested that the Bell Ringing service be videotaped and posted on the Human Relations Commission's website. The Commission also requested that a press release be developed.

The Commission recommended that the Commissioners surround the 2015 MLK Grantees to ring the liberty bell at this service.

Commissioner Jones stated that he will donate time and supplies from his printing business to print the brochure/flyer for the Bell Ringing Service. Commissioner Williams will identify an image for the cover of the brochure/flyer.

The Commission recommended, as a way of saving time at the Bell Ringing service, that the MLK Proclamation be read at the State Employees Observance Program. Emily Williams will contact the Governor's Office with this request.

State Employees MLK Holiday Observance Program

The Commission is strongly interested in being more visible at this program. Chairman Henderson and Commissioner Jeffers have indicated their interest in meeting with Judy Jefferson, Director of the Governor's Office of Community and Constituent Affairs to discuss the Commission's participation in this service.

The Commission voiced concerns about the length of the 2014 State Employees MLK Holiday Observance Program and recommended that the Executive Director ask the Governor's Office of Community and Constituency Affairs if they would engage a time keeper, so that speakers do not overrun their allotted speaking times.

Reception following the MLK Holiday Observance Program

Emily Williams indicated that the Commission would be responsible for the reception following the State Employees MLK Holiday Observance Program. Two estimates provided by Corrections Services were included in the agenda package distributed to Commissioners. Commissioner Partee suggested that the Commission consider contracting with a minority-owned caterer. Commissioner Harshaw will provide contact information for Honeybear and Sylvester Fleming, both African-American catering companies. A motion was made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Williams that Executive Director Williams should request estimates for "finger foods," rather than a buffet meal. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Commission remembered that, at last year's reception, there was a surplus of food and recommended reducing the number of attendees from 500 (as in 2014) to 275. However, there were concerns that we not run out of food, so the Commission decided to request estimates for 350 individuals.

The Commission is interested in having a rolling Powerpoint presentation during the reception. This presentation will need to be reviewed and approved by DOA before its use. Emily Williams will coordinate to have pictures sent to Commissioner Williams and to Commissioner Jeffers. It was recommended that pictures of the Commission and meeting pictures (e.g., swearing in ceremonies) be included in the presentation. The presentation will need to be approved by DOA's Office of Communications before the December 4, 2014 meeting of the Commission. The Commission recommended that the media presentation start with a video that is followed by pictures, only. Commissioners Williams, Jeffers, Partee and Moore will develop the presentation. Chairman Henderson advised the Commission to consider the simplest approach. A motion was made by Derek Partee to have the media presentation at the reception; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Harshaw. Commissioner Williams opposed the motion; Commissioner Kickler abstained.

John R. Larkin Award

Emily Williams will confirm, with the Governor's Office of Community and Constituent Affairs, the process for selecting a nominee for the Award. Commissioner Williams will design a form that may be sent to all Commissioners for their votes. Chairman Henderson indicated that he

considered the ideal candidate would impart Dr. King's vision in service to the community, as well as in his/her professional service.

The Commission recommended that the Governor's Office of Community and Constituent Affairs set the deadline for the 2016 nominations at a date prior to November 15, 2015.

King Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Commissioner Moore will serve as the Commission's liaison with the King Center in Atlanta and, in this role, will keep the Commission abreast of the King Center's initiatives.

Adjournment

Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Williams,

Executive Director,

NC Human Relations Commission

September 22, 2014