

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION MEETING**

**MINUTES October 6, 2021**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Diane Martin - Chair	Kurt Wall – Vice Chair	Clarita Dawson	<b>OHRE STAFF PRESENT:</b>
Tina Horn	Caroline Harper	Chalise Latimer	Marla Moore
Kimberly McCauley	Tracey L. Williams	Yetta Rogerson	Yolanda F. Sonnier
Bonnie Sorak	Brett David Vess		
David Nairn	Teresa Garcia		

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Items</b>
Greetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson, Diane Martin yielded the floor to OHRE Administrator Yolanda F. Sonnier to extend greetings and updates.</li> <li>Yolanda Sonnier reminded the Commission of the Human Rights Commission Awards on October 19, 2021. Mentioned reception and Awards Namesakes for the Organizational Awards, Individual Awards and Student Award.</li> </ul>	
Approval of September 2021 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.</li> </ul>	
Committee Report: Living the Dream Contest Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teresa Garcia thanked Marla Moore and Wanda Cao for the Survey Monkey Living the Dream Application.</li> <li>They are seeking advice on how to send the Survey Monkey out to the community.</li> <li>Yolanda suggested that all commissioners receive the Survey link and send to their connections, make sure its in the Ball bulletin and on Social Media.</li> <li>Ms. Garcia suggested that the deadline be extended.</li> <li>Ms. Moore mentioned that the original Fliers and Press release did go out to the Ball Bulletin and the OHRE website.</li> <li>Clarita Dawson made a motion to extend the contest deadline for all contests to October 31, 2021. Ms. Garcia seconded the motion.</li> <li>The commission unanimously voted to extend the deadline to October 31, 2021. They can be dropped off at OHRE up to October 29, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Moore will fix fliers and send to the Commission by Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
Committee Reports: Program Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracey Williams mentioned that the committee had decided to hold auditions.</li> <li>Ms. Williams asked if the Awards would be virtual or live.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marla Moore contact Howard Community College for the MLK Program.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sonnier mentioned that the program is currently live and suggested to limit the number of guests. Similar to the HRC awards.</li> <li>• Ms. Williams, Ms. Sonnier and Ms. Martin discussed the benefits of pre-recording the ceremony vs. a live performance. And preparing for both options.</li> <li>• Ms. Williams asked about the budget. Ms. Sonnier said there was no location fee for the Howard County Conservancy. They also discussed the videography fee. And the guest speaker and associated fee.</li> <li>• Ms. Sonnier spoke to Jennifer at Howard County administration about the feasibility of Wes Moore being the keynote and will follow up.</li> <li>• Ms. Martin asked about a back up in case Wes Moore’s speaker fee was prohibitive.</li> <li>• Ms. Williams then asked the members of her committee to consider moving the previously suggested meeting date as few attended the last program meeting. The group decided on every other Wednesdays starting October 13,2021.</li> <li>• Ms. Williams asked Marla Moore if she could work on securing the Smith Theatre at Howard Community College. Ms. Moore said she would work on it.</li> <li>• Ms. Garcia asked for a link meeting invitation, Ms. Williams said that Ms. Moore would send out the invitations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marla Moore send Webex meeting invites to the committee for Wednesday October 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM.</li> </ul>
<p>Committee Reports: Day of Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bert Hash spoke about the successful MLK pantry on September 25. Thanked Lynda Earle, Trent Hall, Chalise Latimer and others for helping feed 580 families. Motioned that the pantries will continue in the foreseeable future. The commission must give 30 days’ notice before they can discontinue to food. The Harriet Tubman Foundation agreed with MLK Commission to make them a more permanent addition.</li> <li>• The next Pop-Up Pantries will occur on October 25 and November 22 from 10:00 Am to 11:30 AM.</li> <li>• Kimberly McCauley is working on the storage with the Food Bank, Mr. Hash will go to the National PanHellenic Society to gain their continued participation.</li> <li>• Mr. Hash thanked Ms. Moore for creating Pantry Fliers in English and Spanish.</li> <li>• Bonnie Sorak asked Mr. Hash what time volunteers are needed to help set up. Mr. Hash mentioned that it’s from 8:30 Am to 11:30 Am. He then said that volunteers are needed for anytime they can commit to, even a half hour.</li> </ul>	

<p>Committee Report: Essay Contest &amp; Oratory Contest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarita Dawson sent the flier to Ms. Green, the Black Student Liaison and Glenelg who sent it to all the BSAPs in the county. She asked that they send out the fliers weekly. She wants the updated flier.</li> <li>• She communicated with Ms. Simon, the Director of Education for the Howard County Public School System.</li> <li>• Ms. Sonnier mentioned that Mount Hebron sent the fliers out to all the students on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Ms. Moore said that she would update the fliers first thing in the morning and send to the commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Moore will update the fliers and distribute them to the MLK Commission tomorrow morning.</li> </ul>
<p>Committee Report: Reception and Food for Day of Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Carolyn Harper has identified possible local Maryland caterers such as Anagada Delights and Busboys and Poets. Looking for local, preferably minority or women owned businesses. Hiring a caterer depends on whether or not the event is virtual or live.</li> <li>• Ms. Dawson and Ms. Sonnier gave strong recommendation for Anagada Delights.</li> </ul>	
<p>Committee Report: Poster Contest Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Nairn stated that the committee is meeting on Sunday to discuss working with student organizations such as the Alpha Achievers as sub-committees to help promote the contest and help organizes the posters</li> <li>• Mr. Nairn said that they were looking for outside people to judge the poster contest.</li> <li>• Although the contest has been geared to elementary school students in the past, the flier states that the contest is open to middle school as well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the Plan</li> <li>• Finalize the Work Group</li> <li>• Focus on attracting a few more student organizations to participate.</li> </ul>
<p>Committee Report: Publicity Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tina Horn mentioned that she had shared what the OHRE generated marketing on social media. Now that the due date has changed, she asked Ms. Moore to send updated fliers and marketing once it was done.</li> <li>• Ms. Horn mentioned the online marketing spreadsheet and reminded commissioners to add their media contacts to the list.</li> <li>• Ms. Sorak put the link in the Webex so people could add their media contacts. She mentioned that once the event program and day of service are set, they will promote those.</li> </ul>	

New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Martin asked if anyone had anything to add. Ms. Sonnier mentioned that she was working on getting the answers to the questions from the meeting.</li><li>• Ms. Martin reminded the commission to share the new fliers with all their contacts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yolanda will follow up on guest speaker information and plan, virtual or indoors and the possibility of an outside organization sponsoring awards.</li></ul>
Adjournment	<p>Ms. Martin thanked the commission and the meeting ended at 6:45 PM.</p> <p>Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 3, 2021.</p>	