

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

December 1, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

COMISSIONERS:			STAFF:
Diane Martin, Chair	Clarita Dawson	Brett David Vess	Yolanda Sonnier
Kurt Wall, Vice Chair	Caroline Harper	Yetta Roggerson	Marla Moore
Bert Hash	Kimberly McCauley	Sierra Sewchand, Student	Wanda Cao
Chalise Latimer	Bonnie Sorak		
Tina Horn	Hunter Craig		

Topic	Discussion	Action Items
November Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane called meeting to order at 6:00 pm. • Diane asked everyone about November Minutes. • Bert’s name was spelled incorrectly. • In first paragraph, added Marla brought up a photo of past secretary, Tina Horn. • In subcommittee box, correct spelling of “Couple.” • In Day of Service, “Glenelg” is spelled incorrectly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline moves November Minutes be accepted with corrections made. Kurt 2nd. All in favor. • Motion was carried.
Chair’s Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane has a request from Howard County 50+ center to hold a presentation at their centers, one is Elkridge and the second is North Laurel. Can be held before or after MLK Celebration. • Marla would like some commissioners to work with her on presentations, to talk about work, food distribution, things during year, and legacy. Would like seasoned folks to come to address peers. Bert and Diane volunteered. • Kurt and Diane state they would prefer during the presentation after the MLK Celebration. • Marla states it would be at noon and the senior center will have box lunches. With those who are interested, she will find out what dates are available and to come up with a plan. • Bonnie stated it might be possible to use all or part of the recording of the panel discussion that we will have from "The Highway to Nowhere" on Jan. 17th. 	
Program Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracey was unable to make this meeting. • Chalise stated there are no updates and no information about a guest speaker. • Yolanda stated that Tracey reached out to Wes Moore’s team. But there has been no response regarding his attendance. • Chalise stated that the only other person was Freeman Hrabowski but we don’t know if anyone contacted him. Still waiting for Wes Moore first before reaching out to Freeman. • Diane stated maybe we should reach out to Candace Dodson-Reed for Freeman Hraubowksi. • Diane suggested maybe we need a third person. Kurt suggested anyone from the Faith community. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane stated Reverend Turner, and Larry Walker, or the NAACP President is a good choice. • Kurt stated David Anderson from Bridgeway and a young pastor from Union Baptist Church. • Caroline stated Pastor Anderson spoke a few years ago • Hunter stated Larry Walker did 2019 Celebration. Yolanda indicated that Pastor Larry only did the invocation. • Diane told Kurt to talk with Tracey regarding a speaker by next Friday, Dec. 10th. 	
<p>Day of Service Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bert did send a report. Were looking at activities for the children to have to participate. Looking at tying blankets together at Meadowbrook Complex. Also with Legal Trade to see if they would speak to individuals that are looking for legal advice, or have a presentation about wills and etc. • Kim was charged to go to the shelters. Kim stated that they are very specific on what their needs are. Had very specific ideas such as create a napkin with a knife, spoon and fork wrapped in it, because they have grab and go food packs. At least 1000 of them. The other thing would be giving residents 5 pairs of underwear every month packed in Ziplock bags with sizes listed on outside. Mostly men but also women. Also need men's jeans, sizes 28 -32 in waist. And 30-32 in height. This is Grassroots, Cold Weather Shelter, and the Dorsey Center . • Yolanda asked if there would be something that the kids can do that day? Kim stated they can make the silverware packs that morning and deliver them to facility that day. • Kim spoke to Melinda Piat at the center. • Jeans and underwear would have to be donated. • Yolanda did ask Jack & Jill and Warren Mitchell Law Society for donations. • Yolanda asked the Columbia Chapter of the Links, Inc to be involved regarding a previous food pantry with HCC. HCC has a need and requested sanitary products for female students there. • Bert stated that there are 8 grocery stores that is a definite Yes, but still going to other stores to see if they will participate. • Hunter stated currently have 7 schools with intended participation in the food drive competition. There are 2 things: there was a small issue regarding miscommunication with Reservoir HS regarding facilitation of the food drive and wanted to ask Yolanda how many boxes can he bring to Wilde Lake in particular? • Sierra stated they are currently discussing times on when the drops off would be. She is still continuing to contact other schools. • Hunter asked if there are at least worth \$80. Wilde Lake asked for 80 boxes. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bert stated we can offer boxes • Yolanda stated if Bert can send measurements, and OHRE can order for him. • Caroline asked what's the rationale of the additional boxes. • Sierra stated she simply requested 80 boxes but didn't give specific reason. • Bert stated we have website set up for the financial donations for the Howard County Food Bank. He will get together with Chalise regarding Busboys & Poets. 	
<p>Essay Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarita and Chalise met regarding the 10 high schoolers and 15 middle schoolers. Will select 3 winners from high schools and 3 middle schools. • Believe they should read their essays at the Celebration since they were really good. • There should be something provided to congratulating and thanking them for participating. Making all participants as ambassadors from students' perspective to get the info out next year. • Chalise thought it would be great to send a packet to each student to improve their writing. • Chalise did a writing course for middle schoolers previously and the writing course could be a digital download of best practices for writing supplementing their school work. • Yolanda suggested a video of giving tips as well as the downloadable book Chalise was talking about. • Diane is not sure to call the students out stating that they can do better. Perhaps there can be something can be done before the submissions, instead of singling them out after. • Clarita stated it i not to call students out, but for all the students and to talk to teachers. • After Clarita and Chalise explained on the writing tools and it's more like a reference, Diane understands and supports the idea. • Yolanda suggested an acknowledgment letter and certificate of participation may be good. • Diane asked if we have the names of the schools. • Clarita stated Marla has all the school names and the parental consent forms have been submitted. • Kurt stated maybe the kids can write an essay about an individual, a "Dr. King: of their time, that they look up to but incorporate Dr. King's principles. • Yolanda recommended all these great ideas be discussed at the debrief meeting in February to incorporate for the 2023 event. • Yolanda asked for each committee to think ahead to 2023 and how much everything would be because we exceed their \$5000 every year. We need each committee's suggested budget by Friday, Dec. 10th. Bonnie brought up Juneteenth. Outdoor celebration at the Pavilion. She was 	

	advised to also provided a proposed budget.	
Poster Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brett thanked Marla for sending out posters. Really likes idea as students as ambassadors. • Brett stated that the committee will finish reviewing the posters this week. • Clarita asked how many posters were submitted, Brett stated only 3 so far. • Students cannot do a joint entry. 	•
Living the Dream Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yetta and Teresa have been going over the submissions and apologized for missing the deadline. They will have submissions for everyone this week by Friday. • Once they have the top 2, they will email Yolanda or have a WebEx meeting to talk about it. 	
Reception and Vendors Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline has numbers but need to count them up and does not have confirmation number yet. • Still need to figure out food, if boxed or not. Just needs to confirm numbers. • Hunter asked how late the government would let us know if celebrations needs to be halted. • Yolanda stated government allows events if we still have social distancing and wear masks. • Diane asked about vaccine mandates, but Yolanda stated the county has not mandated that yet. • Diane asked if we should take temperatures when folks enter the room. Yolanda stated we haven't at other events • Caroline stated to ask HCC about food and taking masks off to eat/drink. Do we limit food/drinks for that? Yolanda stated there was an idea of having single dessert pre-packaged and given out as they leave. • Hunter asked if the commission can have guests wear masks and show proof of vaccination, or test results, or is that the county's? Kurt stated in government buildings you have to wear a mask. • Yolanda will check on that regarding Covid protocols and if HCC requires it we have abide by the location. • Caroline states Day of Service, prepackaged food. Once we hear back from HCC we can figure out what to do. 	
Publicity Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina stated we are standing by as materials are being distributed and all that goes on social media. • Bonnie put together the press list that anyone can still add to. 	
Logistics Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bert stated we have the Meadowbrook complex and can still use that. • Kurt and Bert will discuss it further later. 	

Oratory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marla stated we received no oratory submissions. • Yolanda asked based on the discussion of the commission, is the commission extending the submissions? Bert stated the commission is not asking to extend it. • Yetta mentioned since there was money for the contest, she asked for elementary entries? • Yolanda stated oratory did not have own budget, we were trying to move money around to fit it. • Having essay students read their essays may be good for hybrid or virtual as well. • Yolanda reiterated that every committee, award, event, is what she needs numbers for the budget. 	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt stated County Executive wants to know 1) his roles, dates and times, for MLK Celebration, 2) list of organizations, 3) names of food collections, and 4) also need program details for the kick off. • Yolanda stated Jan 16th for Bringing Remarks/Greetings, starts at 3pm. Yolanda stated in person. • List of Organizations - Bonnie stated Jewish Federation of Howard County, Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County. Diane stated the Columbia Maryland Chapter of the Links Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Inc., Caroline stated all of the organizations within the NPHC including Sigma Gamma Row Sorority, Inc. • Bonnie asked about the logos. Marla stated to make sure those are sent to her and that to make sure those are added to the website and program. • Yolanda suggested to create a Google Doc so that everyone can add in information. • Marla, Wanda, and Yolanda will create Google Doc to have all the information needed. • Kurt will forward Wanda the email stating what County Executive is looking for in order to make the Google Doc. • Yolanda stated that Marla and Wanda will work on the schedule that can start with virtual offerings. • Bonnie wanted to know who wants to get together to work on Budget. Bert and Bonnie. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane adjourned meeting at approximately 7:36 pm. 	