

**NC MLK, Jr. Commission Meeting Minutes**  
10:00 am, November 30, 2018  
YMCA Office, 801 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC

**Present:** Commissioners James White, Emanuel Ealy, Elton Futrell, Anitra Bailey, Larry Jones and Immanuel Jarvis.

**Absent:** Commissioners Lucy Dinner, Dumas Harshaw, Ann Huggins, Jacquie Jeffers and Phillip Smith.

**Guests:** NC DOA Dep. Sec. Christy Agner, Admin. Asst. Cindy Olsen, and Grant Writer Melissa Dunston.

**Roll Call and Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Chairman James White at 10:00 am. Roll call was taken and the Conflict of Interest and Ethics statement were read. No Conflict of Interests were reported. An invocation was offered by Chairman White.

**Old Business** – Chairman White began the meeting asking Commissioners to share any news since the last Commission meeting. Commissioner Jones discussed planning for his local MLK event. Commissioner Bailey worked on Community Service projects related to Hurricane Florence. Commissioner Futrell worked with food pantries and grants. Commissioner White participated in several national meetings where he discovered a group of people who work on MLK grants. He stated he also met with Travis Mitchell, UNC-TV and reported positive discussion. Commissioner White reported Rabbi Dinner was working with the recent tragedy at the Synagogue.

Chairman White shared several quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.” “I’m convinced if we get on the right track – these things will be considered more important.” Chairman White asked the Commissioners what comes to your mind when you hear this? Commissioner Futrell expressed that Dr. King was a very strong person and the reflection requires deep thought Commissioner Jones shared that Dr. King’s words were prophetic and it coming to fruition now. Chairman White also asked the question, what does this mean for our work on the MLK Commission? Commissioner Jones discussed the work we must do, and we need to go out and live his prophecy. Commissioner Bailey shared the overwhelming scope of the task that it can seem challenging for one person to do it all.

Chairman White stated, Dr. King has been so prophetic for current times, challenging the group to consider new approaches for citizens to see and hear Dr. King’s ideas that should still move us to action. If alive today, Dr. King would be looking to the MLK Commission to do more work.

Deputy Secretary Agner reported DOA moved forward with request to create a social media channel for the Commission and the Facebook page is now in service [searchable by *#NCMLKJrCommission*]. Staff requested Commission members to operate the Facebook page. Photos from the NC Archives Digital Collection are featured on the Facebook page. Commissioners Jones, Bailey and White were selected to serve as Admins of the page, along with staff.

Chairman White shared two pictures of Dr. King. The first picture was taken in 1965 in Selma, Alabama. The second picture was taken in 1966 in Chicago and included a visual of Mayor Richard Dailey’s “machine.” Chairman White asked the MLK Commissioners the question, “What do we want to do with the Facebook page?” Commissioner Bailey shared we can use it as a vessel for communication. Nobody knows who we are. We can share opportunities for applying for grants, the program we have in January. Staff pointed out, people can bring pictures and articles of Dr. King to the History Museum. Chairman White stated he will talk to his contact, Earl Ijames, Curator for the History Museum. Commissioner Futrell shared, we can let people know what we do, post pictures of the recipients of the grants we award and events we sponsor. We can also promote the grantee’s programs on our Facebook page. Commissioner Jones added, we can use the page to promote the grant opportunities that are available, networking with like-minded other groups and cross pollination.

Deputy Secretary Agner added the MLK Commission identified in past meetings a desire to create a pathway to gathering the oral history of Dr. King in NC. Staff developed and submitted a project proposal and it was approved by

the NC Internship Council. The cost of hiring the Intern for 10 weeks this summer is \$3,300, \$1750 is being sponsored by the Internship Council. Staff shared the MLK Commission can create a framework for the project, which runs May 26 thru July 2019 [10 weeks]. Chairman White shared the goal is to capture people’s first-person stories of working with Dr. King.

**New Business**

**MLK Jr. Observance weekend Jan. 18-21<sup>st</sup>:** Chairman White opened conversation about ways to promote Bell Ringing Ceremonies. Staff reported that the Commission’s November 2018 request to integrate a Bell Ringing Ceremony with the State Employees MLK, Jr. Observance Program on January 18, 2019 has been planned. The Bell Ringing and Observance will be live streamed by UNC Television. Commissioner Ealy suggested notification to other local UNC affiliates about the event to aid statewide awareness. The Commission requested a Press Release about the Bell Ringing and Observance Program. Chairman White shared he would review options for the Commission to be engaged at the Observance.

The Commission discussed whether to have a meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh, in conjunction with the State Employees’ MLK Observance Program. A decision was made to host a Commission meeting and not plan a separate / additional Bell Ringing for Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Commission Awareness opportunities:** Staff responded on quotes and initial decision for a requested ‘bookmark’ or other promotional item. The estimated costs do not seem to be prohibitive and could include the Commission Statute with a visual and the Bell Ringing explanation on the back. The Commission will discuss the idea further at a future meeting.

**Review of 2017-2018 Grant Program Reports and Discussion of 2018-19 MLK Grant Program:** Chairman White thanked grant writer Melissa Dunston for her work with the MLK Grant Review process. Melissa Dunston shared eleven (11) MLK grants were submitted and binders were distributed with copies of each of the grants. A subcommittee of Chairman White, Commissioner Futrell, and Dunston reviewed each of the grant applications and scored them based on a uniform set of criteria, which was shown to the Commissioners. Commissioners talked about each of the applications, their scores, the amount of money requested from each program, what the money would be used for, etc. After much discussion, a decision was made on which grantees would receive grant funding from the Commission. Six grant recipients were chosen for a total of \$5300 distributed. A motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to fund six organizations and Commissioner Futrell seconded the motion. Commissioners were volunteered by location to schedule a presentation of the grant certificate / funding with each grantee. The list *\*in formation* is:

City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services / Human Relations Division	Elton Futrell Kiana Rivers
GenerationNation	Emanuel Ealy
LEAD Girls of NC Inc	Immanuel Jarvis James White
Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina	Ann Huggins Jamilla Hawkins
NAACP-Davidson County Branch	Anitra Bailey
UNCP Foundation, Inc.	Larry Jones Walter Rodgers

Commissioner Ealy made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Futrell. Meeting adjourned 1:30 pm.

Submitted Cindy Olsen.