

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CARE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER  
SPECIAL CALLED ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
2922 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD, BUILDING A - ACTIVITY ROOM A  
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 - 6:30PM

CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

MINUTES

PRESENT

- Ms. Elaine Sacks
- Ms. Candace E. Wicks
- Ms. Johnnie Goins
- Ms. Venester J. Haywood
- Ms. Althea Harrington
- Rev. Donna Slater
- Mrs. LaSheryl L. Walker
- Ms. Taylor Slovak
- Mr. Aaron Johnson
- Mrs. Nancy Latner
- Mrs. Michelle Espinal-Embler
- Mrs. Shari Hicks
- Mrs. Clara Brown-Trimble

ABSENT

N/A

VACANT POSITIONS

2

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF PRESENT

- LaRhonda Bacon, Coordinator II
- Pamela R. Jones, Division Manager
- Natashia Cooper, Event Services Specialist
- Deborah Sutton, Caseworker II
- Carla Woolridge, Caseworker II

CITY OF DALLAS PRESENT

- Jessica Galleshaw, Office of Community Care Director
- Nadia Chandler-Hardy, Assistant City Manager
- T. C. Broadnax, City Manager

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. A motion was made by Board Member Slater to place the invocation back on the agenda that night and going forward. Board Member Goins seconded. Chair Hicks tabled the motion for later discussion since it was not an item on the agenda. A five (5) minute recess was called by Chair Hicks and returned to order at 6:38pm. There was no posting on the agenda for a voting item concerning the invocation, therefore the chair took no action on the motion in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed by LaRhonda Bacon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Board Member Latner to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes. Board Member Trimble seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## CENTER MANAGER'S REPORT

Pamela Jones, Center Director, presented the December 2018 report. The Social Services Program total number of clients assisted with financial, food, referrals and donations were 2,781. Financial assistance totaled approximately \$36,847. The inaugural Winter Warm-Up Event goal was to serve 125 families and it was exceeded by 125 totaling 250. The center is currently still receiving items and serving people.

Ms. Jones also reviewed the clients served for the property management and administration. The only accurate numbers she had from the week long 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration were from the Awards Gala tallying to 735 attendees. She will provide numbers from all other events at the February board meeting.

Vice-Chair Haywood read Article 5 of the Code of Conduct as a reminder.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Center Manager's Report.

## GALA & PARADE DISCUSSION

Chair Hicks congratulated everyone on a job well done in regard to the Gala and Parade. Multiple board members provided positive feedback on the Gala and Parade. Board Member Latner suggested including a donation button on the website for the 2020 MLK Celebration. Board Member Espinal-Embler questioned when the planning starts for next year, to which Ms. Jones responded the planning would begin in February. There was an additional recommendation to send the invitations out earlier to increase the participation.

## ANNUAL REPORT

Vice-Chair Haywood stated the Annual Report is due every February 1<sup>st</sup> and it represents the work of the board from the previous year. Board Member Wicks requested all 18 events be listed within the report. She also asked staff to provide all new board members the documents and information conducted under this cycle of councilmembers. Board Member Espinal-Embler suggested appointing an editor to the report before the deadline.

Board Member Wicks made a motion to move forward with the necessary emails required for editing the annual report by noon on January 29, 2019 and the chair responds back by 8am on January 30, 2019 and have the document ready for final approval at 12pm on January 30, 2019. Board Member Sacks seconded. The board approved.

## MLK BOARD RETREAT OVERVIEW

Board Member Walker asked everyone to send the top four (4) items they want to discuss at the retreat. Board Member Harrington stated the purpose of the retreat is a time to regroup and connect with each other. This also allows time to review the board member roles and responsibilities, and more importantly how the board members support the center. The retreat will occur on a weekend in March 2019 between 9-1pm and have an outside facilitator.

## CONVERSATION WITH CITY MANAGER ON BOARD ENGAGEMENT

Chair Hicks welcomed and thanked Mr. T. C. Broadnax, City Manager, for accepting the invitation to attend the board meeting. He felt it was important to attend the meeting to answer any questions, thoughts, or concerns regarding his team, the center and the center's events. Board members brought up concerns around removing the invocation/prayer from the agenda.

Mr. Broadnax listened and responded to questions from the board. Board Member Johnson questioned how to increase the funding for the center and get a new building that is more

representative of where we are going versus what we have come from without regentrifying the neighborhood. Mr. Broadnax suggested advocacy, working with staff and identifying how the board can elevate discussion around the needs of the MLK Center. There was conversation about the need for funds to support citizens in need.

Vice-Chair Haywood asked how much money the City approved to help with the MLK Celebration. Mr. Broadnax answered \$35,000 upfront in addition to any donations and other support funding. It was asked was the MLK Advisory Board the only board under review of its charter, job responsibilities, and qualification of its members. He responded that the charter is clear, but suggests council members to advise their appointees not to direct staff. Also, the only review that he is looking at is to make sure that city staff has not relinquished their job responsibilities to board members. It has not been found on the MLK board, but he is watching all boards and commissions. Staff must always stay respectful of the board, but also protect the board from things that they may not know or hear regarding the division.

There was great discussion from board members regarding the level of trust and transparency from staff. Mr. Broadnax asked that any information board members have be sent to him for review. Mr. Broadnax was thanked for his work and his transparency regarding city business. Mr. Broadnax was asked what his vision or direction was for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. He responded to make the broader community around the MLK center reflect the ideologies of Dr. King. He also stated that the board and staff are able to work together for the benefit of the citizens, but that ultimately his vision is the vision of the community and that we always remain respectful as we work for citizens of Dallas.

Board Member Latner suggested if staff has a change they want to implement, then an example should be provided. Board Member Slovak mentioned the MLK, Jr. Board is the only board that does not report directly to Council but to the Center Manager. Mr. Broadnax stated that if there is ever a need for him to come back please feel free to contact him. Ms. Jones and her team are well-equipped to relay information about the Center's needs and board input, and that we are all here to make the community great. He also added that the resolution regarding the MLK Celebration is in place and that he wants to ensure that the annual celebration and anything related to the center is held in high regarded throughout the city.

#### MLK BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

Chair Hicks brought forward that the board has the opportunity to hold their meetings at City Hall. There was discussion regarding the location, and Mrs. Goins stated that the location had previously been discussed and voted upon in September. Board Member Walker proposed to alternate the meetings between City Hall and the Center. A few board members requested that if the meetings are held at City Hall, then make sure it is accessible to the community as well.

Chair Hicks made a motion to alternate the meetings at between City Hall and the MLK, Jr. Center. Board Member Wicks requested a call of vote by districts. Approved: Districts 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15. Opposed: Districts 1, 3, 5, 8 and 13. Abstained: District 6. The item passed on a divided vote. There will be more discussion regarding the meeting location during the MLK Board Retreat.

#### CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Irish Watson (District 8) stated that she was upset and disappointed that the MLK Celebration Community Planning Committee was moved to City Hall and that funds were being collected by Communities Foundation of Texas, and she wanted clarification as to how much of the funds

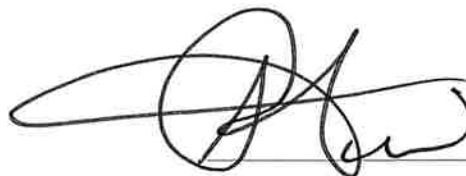
would be returned to the center. South Dallas by South Dallas Coalition Leader (District 7) asked under whose guidance is conflict between the community and Mr. Broadnax staff going to be resolved moving forward. Mrs. Hicks added that this portion of the meeting is for community comments, and recommended that community members reach out directly to Mr. Broadnax with specific questions or concerns that they would like him to answer.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hicks stated that the next meeting would be Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Board Member Wicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Slater seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Shari Hicks  
Printed Name



02/25/2019  
Signature and Date