

RECEIVED

2019 JUL 30 PM 1:55

CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CARE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

2922 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD, BUILDING A - ACTIVITY ROOM A

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 - 6:30PM

MINUTES

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Mrs. Nancy Latner

VACANT POSITIONS

2

4

6

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF PRESENT

LaRhonda Bacon, Coordinator II
Pamela R. Jones, Division Manager

CITY OF DALLAS PRESENT

Jessica Galleshaw, Office of Community Care Director

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

INVOCATION

Chair Hicks allowed everyone 30 seconds to make a remark, poem, prayer or moment of silence. Board Member Johnson thanked God and the most high for having an opportunity to sit at the table. Board Member Haywood thanked God for everyone getting there safe and sound, and that everyone makes quality contributions to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

Board Member Slater thanked Christ Jesus, her Lord and Savior, and the Father and Holy Ghost for allowing the board to be there. She prayed that everyone's mind be on their best to represent those that sacrificed and laid down their lives for this community.

ATTENDANCE

Roll call was completed by LaRhonda Bacon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hicks stated the date at the top of the minutes should be changed from March 25, 2019 to February 25, 2019.

A motion was made by Board Member Wicks to approve the February 25, 2019 minutes with the correction that was noted about the date. Board Member Goins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MARCH 2019 RETREAT UPDATE

The title should say April since the board agreed that the retreat would be on April 13, 2019. If an overnight retreat was held it would be at the expense of everyone individually. Chair Hicks reached out to Crystal Ross in the Parks & Recreation Department to provide the board with location options. Suggestions from the board and staff included the Arboretum and Audubon Center. The suggested time of 9am to 3pm would include a breakfast, lunch and snacks. For the first half-hour, the board will conduct their regular April meeting. An outside facilitator, who's name won't be shared until they confirm, is a PhD licensed counselor and social worker. This person does a lot of work throughout the city as it relates to poverty and its impact.

Chair Hicks would like the board to collectively be an advocate from a policy perspective. She also would like for the board to hold the city accountable for the studies done in their community and the City to hold them accountable as well. Center Director, Pamela Jones, mentioned how Vice Chair Haywood went before City Council to talk about the Center not having a receptionist and needing security. Board Member Walker requested a report be done during the board meetings in order to include outside activities done by board members.

The board discussed gathering historical information on the Center and board. A few of the board members suggested reaching out to Dianne Gibson, Michael Waters, Commissioner John Wiley Price and many other esteemed dignitaries for material. LaRhonda Bacon, Coordinator, questioned when the board switched from a community-driven board to a City of Dallas board. UNT Dallas or UT Dallas may be consulted to support the efforts. Vice Chair Haywood proposed the data be copied monthly or bi-weekly and brought to the center in the administration office or wherever the center manager suggests.

Proposed by-laws will be created at the retreat in order to establish a board boundary or expectation perspective. Chair Hicks recommend the board members talk to their council members before the retreat. Board Member Espinal-Embler requested a few examples of other City of Dallas Boards and/or Commissions be brought to the retreat. Board Member Wicks disagrees with the concept of creating by-laws since the City Council decides who would best qualify for these positions. Everyone is requested to bring their bios and strengths to the retreat in order to determine what they can do to strengthen the board.

Chair Hicks opened up the conversation for discussion on items to be included for the upcoming retreat agenda for Saturday, April 13th, 9am-3pm, at a location to be determined.

Suggestions made by board members are below:

- By-laws
- Games historical in nature that go around the Center, history, etc.
- Layout of the whole campus of the center and the programming
- Goals and expectations of the board
- Needs versus services of the center and a plan on how to execute
- List of events and event summaries
- Team-building activities
- Annual report (format)

- Developing a vision statement
- Mentorship; partnering new members and tenured members
- Financial reporting and statements (how to manage and fill in any gaps)
- Developing a board book that will give a historical perspective of the Center and/or the board
- Mind-body connection activity

Board Member Espinal-Embler had a resource take the words in the Annual Report and reformat it to look like reports from other boards and commissions. The report was compiled by her mother, Jacqueline Espinal, who for many years has produced reports for governmental bodies and private corporations. Chair Hicks will bring examples of other annual reports to the retreat. If it is agreed upon, then the board will go with a new format. If not, then they will keep it the same. Ms. Bacon suggested following the guidelines the City Secretary's Office provides when drafting the next annual report.

CENTER MANAGER'S REPORT

- Clients Served

Pamela Jones, Center Director, provided an overview on social services and tenant programs for February. The Social Services Program total number of clients assisted with financial, food, referrals and donations were 2,135. Financial assistance totaled approximately \$21,351.

- 2019 Celebration Week Update

Information was provided at the February meeting.

- Leadership Dallas Project

The project was presented before the Human and Social Needs Committee today, March 18th. The partnership with the Center is to have a food stand because South Dallas is noted for being a food desert. Leadership Dallas will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the community for free inside of one of the vacant rooms in the center. Project beautification is scheduled to be completed by the end of May, but the ribbon cutting ceremony will be along with the Juneteenth Celebration.

Even though there will be no cooked foods, all staff has their food handling certification. North Texas Food Bank and Bonton Farms are going to provide all the fresh foods and vegetables to the Center. Programming will work hand-in-hand with the community garden that the Center already has in place. It will be done twice a week, on Tuesday's and Thursday's, in conjunction with the snack packs handed out to the community. A time will later be determined. It was suggested that the board solicits resources for the bags. Community Courts along with volunteers from Miles of Freedom will allow us to use community service workers.

- Overview of 2018 and 2019 Donations

Out of the last 4 years, the last 2 years budget for the Celebration Week are the only ones not in the red. 2018 balance was \$16,000 and this year \$10,000.

Spring Extravaganza, formerly known as the Easter Egg Hunt, will be on April 18th and include an egg hunt, Easter bunny, educational and financial components, giveaways and be centered around the community.

Board Member Wicks mentioned the AIDS Walk and how the founder, Auntjuan Wiley, would like for the board to bring a greeting and walk in the activity. Last year, 4-5 board members participated. During the event, there will be a HIV/AIDS van doing free testing, condoms given out, HIV/AIDS material, and people with testimonies that have experience with it. It will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at the Center.

April 4th is the Day of Remembrance and Open House MLK Event. At that time, the board will be recognized. The board agreed to be there between 5:30-5:45pm to help out. All Center tenants in all 5 buildings will be open to hand out brochures and maps. Food will be served.

In honor of Women's History Month, Board Member Wicks mentioned a news article from the Dallas Morning Newspaper that highlighted her mother, Leila May Hill Wicks, the history on the churches that started the feeding of the homeless here in Dallas, and Rev. Dr. Harkins for the Showers of Blessings. This tribute is for her and all of the women who have given any service to the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Goins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Shari Hicks
Printed Name

Shari Hicks 2/20/2017
Signature and Date