



City of Dallas

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 - 6:30P.M.**

WebEx Meeting Address:

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m23d6f2289e23381fd9109293a1efaae3>

Join by phone

+1-469-210-7159 United States Toll (Dallas)

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 146 437 0337

MINUTES

PRESENT

Ms. Elaine Sacks
Mr. Asa Woodberry
Mr. Trent Hughes
Mrs. Michelle Espinal-Embler
Ms. Candace Wicks
Ms. Zandra Medenhall
Ms. Johnnie Goins
Mrs. Clara Brown-Trimble
Mrs. LaSheryl L. Walker
Rev. Donna Slater

ABSENT

Ms. Amanda Johnson
Dr. Jerry Christian

VACANT POSITIONS

9
11
13

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF PRESENT

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

CITY OF DALLAS PRESENT

Dr. Jamel Slaughter, Program Administrator
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff
Jessica Galleshaw, Director

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice Chair Wicks called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

INVOCATION/OPENING STATEMENT

Board Member Walker prayed for everyone, the community and the decorum of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was completed by LaRhonda Bacon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Wicks tabled the approval of minutes for the next meeting.

DISCUSSION: AUDIT – ADVISORY BOARD

Vice Chair Wicks tabled the Audit discussion for the next meeting.

ADDRESS THE ADVSORY BOARD

Chief of Staff Tolbert introduced herself to the board and thanked them for the work they have provided to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Chief Tolbert is looking forward to working with the board and the community and knows that together we all will be able to address the needs of the community. She wants and looks at the board and staff as partners and knows that the efforts and goals will be in sync with positive contributions to the community. Chief Tolbert also provided the funds available for the 2021 MLK Celebration \$50,000 from City of Dallas General fund and \$33,000 balance of funds raised in Communities Foundation of Texas. So, at this time \$83,000 can be used for the 2021 MLK Celebration before we start to contact private and public entities for more contributions. Chief Tolbert has made herself available to the board for any questions and resources needed.

DISCUSSION: 2021 MLK CELEBRATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Vice Chair Wicks stated that the sub-committee met on September 10, 2020 at 4:33pm. The committee members are Mr. Asa Woodberry, Ms. Elaine Sacks, Mrs. Michelle Embler, and Rev. Donna Slater. The first items for discussion are ticket price, the suggestion from the committee is to have a gala ticket price of \$75.00 and no more than \$100.00 for 2021. The suggestion is for an in-person gala with a luncheon as back-up based on the venue pricing. The discussion for the lower ticket price is to make the event more affordable for local community members to participate. It was recommended that Tasha Parker and Desmond Fernandez, reporters from WFAA Channel 8 News to be the mistress and master of ceremonies for the evening. We have three themes to present they are as follows: “One People, One Nation, One Dream”; “A Time to Dream, Imagine, Believe and Act”; and “The Fierce Urgency of Now”. During this meeting Vice Chair Wicks called for a roll call vote for the theme and the result is “The Fierce Urgency of Now” for 2021.

Chair Christian and Vice Chair Wicks discussed and introduced The Dream Keeper Award to the sub-committee. The suggested recipient for the 2021 award will be Dale Hansen. This choice was met with praise and agreeance due to his push for civil rights and liberties for all as well as his sports monologues that we always geared towards a more equitable system of governance. We are excited to present this recipient to the entire board. There was discussion that the 2021 keynote speaker be a local person that could bring a different perspective and was not a political figure. There was consensus that the sub-committee wanted a speaker to bring a positive message of healing for the audience in attendance. The sub-committee presented a list of men and women to vote for during this meeting Vice Chair Wicks called for a roll call vote requesting a first and second choice from each member. The result of that vote was first choice Cynt Marshall, Dallas Mavericks CEO and second choice Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, Senior Pastor Friendship West Baptist Church as possible keynote speakers for 2021. There was discussion regarding the color theme for 2021 of blending several different color choices and options. There was also discussion of labeling it a heritage theme banquet and the colors that individuals wore would coincide with their specific heritage to be more inclusive and not discriminate against anyone’s background or heritage. During this meeting Vice Chair Wicks called for a roll call vote for the 2021 color theme and the result is black and gold, which are Dr. King’s fraternity colors, for 2021.

The Outstanding Concerns for the next sub-committee meeting are Scholarship Goals, Fundraising goals for the event, A pre-party or after party for the event, Venue request (for subcommittee to review before full

committee), and the March/Parade. Board Member Medenhall made a motion to accept the report from the 2021 MLK Celebration Sub-committee, it was second by Board Member Hughes. The board approved.

2020 CENTER CULTURAL EVENTS

Ms. Jones reported that the Back to School Festival event served 1,297 students and a total of 497 families. The event was a success and well received. MLK Fresh Produce Distribution served 2,975 families during the month of August 2020. The distribution is still taking place every Saturday at 10am at the Park South YMCA during the Covid-19 pandemic. For the month of October, we will have two (2) events Day of Dignity Saturday, October 24, 2020 10:00am-12:00pm and Harambee Festival Saturday, October 31, 2020 10:00am-3:00pm each of these events will be drive thru in accordance to the Covid-19 measures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Goins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Trimble seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Signature

Printed name

Date

Observation B: Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board

There is not a consensus of the advisory capacity the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board should perform, and monthly board meetings are poorly attended. As a result, there is a risk the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Board will remain unable to ensure that operations are efficient, effective, and achieve their mission.

Lack of Consensus

On September 21, 1971, City Council passed Ordinance 13384 to establish a Crossroads Community Service Center Board that had policy and operational responsibilities for the community center. Various ordinances have renamed the community center and board to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, and changed the board's size, term, appointment procedures and responsibilities to an advisory board.

Interviews with eight board members revealed a range of roles/responsibilities the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board should perform. While subsequently amended, earlier ordinances required City Council-approved by-laws and stated a detailed list of functions of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board. By-laws could not be provided, and no one referred to the functions detailed in the amended ordinances. One board member referred to the guiding principles listed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board Annual Report presented to City Council.

Poor Attendance

Besides the lack of a consensus, the board meetings are poorly attended. Approximately 28 percent of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board seats were vacant (4.25 of 15 seats) for the meetings during the audit period. The vacant seats ranged from a high of eight for one meeting to a low of two for three meetings. Further, approximately two Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board members were absent from each meeting during the audit period. An August 24, 2018, memo from the City Manager to the Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council noted the following:

- *"The Board currently has 7 total vacant positions, including the chair, which creates a significant impediment to holding productive meetings."*
- *"Additionally, several current members have attendance issues."*
- *"Two of the 3 most recent scheduled meetings were unable to be held due to a lack of quorum."*
- *"Due to quorum challenges, the 2019 MLK Celebration Planning Committee was established in March 2018.... The Planning Committee is comprised of community members and volunteers as well as several members of the MLK Community Center Advisory Board."*

Criteria:

- ❖ Dallas City Code, Article XIII. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board*
- ❖ *The Governance Assessment Checklist* published by the City of Kansas City, Missouri – City Auditor's Office
- ❖ Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government, (Green Book), *Principle 6.03 – Definitions of Objectives*

Assessed Risk Rating:

High

We recommend the **Director of the Office of Community Care:**

B.1: Work with the City Manager, City Attorney's Office and City Council to establish: (1) by-laws that describe the roles and responsibilities of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board; and, (2) procedures to ensure a fully functioning Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board that contributes to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center mission.