



Martin Luther King Jr. Board Board Meeting

November 2, 2023 | 4:00 PM
BOC Conference Room City Hall

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A 10-05-2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - A Revised By-Laws Review
By-Laws - DRAFT
 - B Sponsor update - John R. Lewis Elementary School T-shirts
 - C Words for 2024 MLK T-shirts
2024 MLK T-shirt - DRAFT
4. New Business
 - A MLK Board Holiday Celebration
5. Adjournment

**MARTIN LUTHER KING BOARD MEETING
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
OCTOBER 5, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Elaine Lucas, Chairperson
Joyce Humphrey, Citizen
June O'Neal, Mentor's Project
Dr. Henry Ficklin, MBC Executive Director of Community Affairs
Charise Stephens-Merriweather, MBC Small Business Affairs
Lisa M. Watson, Pastor, Evangelical Liberty Christian Church & EMA Program Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rev. Dominique Nichols, Bibb County School District
Rev. Dominique Johnson, Kingdom Life Church
Rev. Harold Young, Tubman Museum
Dr. Evans Brown, True Faith Church of God in Christ
Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, Temple Beth Israel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney
Marshall Talley, Macon Black Culture
Dr. Mary H. Butler
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of Commission

Call To Order

Chairperson Elaine Lucas called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

Prayer

Dr. Henry Ficklin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Paster Lisa Watson, seconded by June O'Neal and carried unanimously, the minutes from September 7, 2023, were approved.

Old Business

2023 Juneteenth Parade Financials

Marshall Talley reported on Juneteenth Parade Budget. A spreadsheet of revenue and expenses was given to the board. Mr. Talley will forward a digital folder of the expenses to Dr. Ficklin for the records.

2024 Juneteenth Parade is scheduled on June 16, 2024, Father's Day. The Board expressed concern with the start time and suggested that the parade start at the same time as other parades in the past. Mr. Talley said he would check the start time.

Bi-Law Review

Attorney Frank Howard read and interpreted the bi-laws from Section I. to Section V. Board members provided feedback and suggested changes accordingly. Due to time constraints Commissioner Lucas asked the board to continue reviewing the bi-laws and suggest changes at the next meeting.

2024 Martin Luther King Jr. 3rd Grade T-Shirts

June O'Neal read the words for the t-shirts to the Board. The words were discussed, and some changes were made to the list. There will be a total of 12 new words all in reflection of what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would say in his speeches.

Dr. Ficklin is working on getting a sponsor for the shirts to include John R. Lewis Elementary School 3rd graders. He will write a letter to the Board of Education to see if they would sponsor the additional shirts.

It was also mentioned that the Community Foundation might have some small grants that the board could apply for. Charise Stephens-Merriweather mentioned the High Five Grant. The deadline to submit for the grant is October 15, 2023 at noon. Dr. Ficklin will look into writing the one-page grant.

On motion by Pastor Lisa Watson, seconded by June O'Neal and carried unanimously, to continue to move forward with the 3rd grade t-shirts for Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and hold on the t-shirts for John R. Lewis Elementary School until a sponsor is found, was approved.

June O'Neal reminded the board of the upcoming event Parent Academy on November 14, 2023.

Organization of the year

Commissioner Lucas and Dr. Fickling will work as a 2-person committee and work on this task.

New Business

Pastor Lisa Watson spoke about the New Year Planning and working with EMA. Paster Watson will provide additional information soon.

Saturday October 7, 2023, there will be a Townhall meeting at the Tubman Museum called "Let my People Vote" that is designed to empower voters.

The 51st. The Annual Earl T. Shinhoster Freedom Fund Awards will be on October 21, 2023. Five members of the MLK Board have agreed to attend. Dr. Ficklin will work on providing something for the ½ page ad purchased for this event.

It was mentioned that the MLK board should take a group photo yearly.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sheila F. Griggs
Deputy Clerk of Commission

**BYLAWS OF THE
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BOARD**
Adopted the ____ day of _____, 2023.
By Authority of Article VI, Chapter 2, Division 8
of the Code of Ordinances of Macon-Bibb County
Effective January 14, 2020

**ARTICLE I
NAME, LOCATION, AND PURPOSE**

SECTION I: **Name.** The official name of this organization shall be the DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BOARD, hereinafter called the "Board."

SECTION II: **Location.** For the purposes of these Bylaws, the official legal address for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board shall be:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board
Macon-Bibb County Government Center
700 Poplar Street
Macon, Georgia 31201

SECTION III: **Purpose.** The Board shall be an organization constituted to serve the Macon-Bibb County Community and its members in furthering the principles of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other leaders of national and local African American history and the Civil Rights Movement. The mission of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all citizens of Macon-Bibb County by commemorating the work and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The purpose of the Board shall be to provide for the organization of the Board, the officers thereof, their terms of office and all matters needful and necessary with regard thereto; to adopt rules and regulations to facilitate the accomplishment of its objectives; to solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations of money and other property for the accomplishment of its objectives and functions, provided that the legal title of all real and personal property, acquired by the Board by gift or otherwise, shall be taken and held in the name of Macon-Bibb County; and other functions as determined by the Board.

SECTION IV: **Conflicts.** Nothing in these Bylaws is intended to conflict with State or Federal law, and if such conflict is discovered or created by future legislation/rule-making, the State or Federal Law shall prevail.

**ARTICLE II
GOVERNING BODY – BOARD OF THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BOARD**

SECTION I: **Responsibilities.** The governing body of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board shall be the ~~executive board, can shall be the Board~~. The Board is responsible for establishing the policy and direction for the daily operations of the Board and with associated staff assigned by the Macon-Bibb County Commission, to direct

Coordinate with
business affairs, ~~supervise~~ staff, adopt an annual budget, oversee the management of funds, perform other functions as may be provided or authorized by law, and take all necessary measures within the limits provided by law to advance the interests of the Board and the community which it serves.

SECTION II:

Board Membership. The Board shall consist of eleven (11) members, who shall be appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by the Macon-Bibb County Commission and shall serve for terms of five (5) years each or until their successors are appointed and confirmed. All members shall serve without remuneration. The appointment of the members of the Board shall be made by the Mayor and submitted to the Macon-Bibb County Commission for confirmation within thirty (30) days. Following the appointment and confirmation, members of the commission shall meet and organize by electing one (1) of their members as chairperson of the board and by electing other officers as the Board deems appropriate. Vacancies among the members of the Board, other than by expiration of the term, shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor, subject to confirmation of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, for the unexpired term in which the vacancy occurs. To be eligible for appointment to the Board, a person must be a resident of Macon-bibb county and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must be vitally interested in the principals of equality, human rights, civil rights, and nonviolence for all people for which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others of all races and nationalities have given their lives. *Sent*

SECTION III:

Votes. Each member of the Board shall have one (1) vote.

SECTION IV:

Terms. Board members shall serve terms as specified In **ARTICLE II, SECTION II.**

SECTION V:

Attendance. Attendance at meetings is the obligation and commitment of each Board member. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without notification to the Chairperson prior to the absence may result in recommendation of removal from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board. Attendance shall be documented using the following procedures:

*start
here*

Minutes will reflect an accurate record of both those in attendance and those absent. Annual reports of attendance shall be available to public.

SECTION VI:

Advisory Members. Community interested in and regularly attending meetings of the Board may appointed as "Advisory Members" of the Board by simple majority vote of the present members of the Board eligible to vote, provided a quorum of the members are present. Advisory members are not eligible to vote on Board business.

ARTICLE III
DUTIES AND OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

SECTION I:

Duties. The Board shall manage the business affairs and property of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board pursuant to State law and in accordance with these Bylaws. It shall establish policy and direction; direct the investment and care of funds of

the Board; make appropriations for specific purposes directly connected with Board activities; take measures to advance the interests of member local governments and the Board; generally, direct the business of the Board; and perform other such functions as may be provided or authorized in the Bylaws.

SECTION II:

Powers. The Board shall have the powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as required or authorized by law. The powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions of the Board shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Adopting an annual budget and work program.
2. Electing Board officers.
3. Establishing such committees as the Board shall deem appropriate.
4. Adopting and amending Board Bylaws.
5. Making rules and regulations for the conduct of Board officers.
6. Solicitation and acceptance of gifts, grants and donations of personal property.
7. Determining the policies and programs to be implemented and operated by the Board, as may be authorized by law.
8. Performing other powers and duties required or authorized by law.

SECTION IV:

Officers. The Board shall hold an election every five (5) years at the January meeting of the Board, or from time-to-time as called by a 2/3 vote of all members, to elect officers from its members consisting of a chairperson and a vice chairperson. Each officer shall serve a term of five years or until their successors are elected and qualified. All officers of the Board shall be eligible for re-election except as provided in **ARTICLE V, SECTION II**.

**ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

SECTION I:

Duties. The duties of the officers are as follows:

1. The **Chairperson** shall act as presiding officer at all meetings of the Board. In the absence of the Chairperson, his or her duties shall be vested in the Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have such other duties as are conferred on him/her by the law, these Bylaws, or by the Board.
2. The **Vice Chairperson** shall act as presiding officer in the absence of the Chairperson and shall carry out those duties assigned by the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall have such other duties as are conferred on him/her by the law, these Bylaws, or by the Board.
3. Powers and privileges not specifically assigned to the officers in these Bylaws are reserved to the Board.

SECTION II:

Powers of the Chairperson. The powers and duties of the Chairperson shall be as follows:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board.
2. Appoint all committees, and serve as an ex-officio member of all appointed committees; however, the Chairperson may not be counted in determining a quorum at meetings of those committees;
3. Authenticate, by signature, resolutions adopted by the Board.
4. Serve as chief policy advocate for the Board;
5. Represent the Board at official functions.

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION I: **Elections.** The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected in accordance with **SECTION IV, ARTICLE III**, by a simple majority of the members of the board who are eligible to vote, provided that a quorum is achieved.

SECTION II: **Terms.** The terms of elected officers shall be for five years and until their successors are elected and seated as an officer.

SECTION III: **Nominations from the Floor.** Nominations from the floor for an officer position may be accepted, provided that any member so nominated, and present agrees to nomination, or if not in attendance, has submitted written acceptance of said nomination. In the event one of these requirements is not met, such nominations from the floor shall be declared out of order.

SECTION IV: **Officer Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy in the position of chair or vice chair, nominations from the floor shall be accepted and voted upon at the next meeting where a quorum of members eligible to vote is present. Such election shall be by a simple majority of the voting Board members present and constituting a quorum. Multiple nominations may be accepted from the floor, and will be voted upon in the order received, either by secret ballot or voice vote, until a nominee receives a simple majority of the of the vote. Should the vacancy occur for the position of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall act as interim chairperson until the election can be held.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS AND QUORUM

SECTION I: **Meetings.** The Board shall hold no less than ten (10) meetings each year, one of which being designated as an Annual meeting, with said meetings being held at times and places to be determined by the Chairperson. All meetings shall be open to the public and be conducted in conformance with the applicable provisions of the Georgia Open Meetings laws. The Board shall hold regular meetings monthly and shall also meet at other times, or in lieu of the regular scheduled meeting, at the call of the Chairperson with at least five (5) days advanced written notice of such special meeting to each Board member and the public.

SECTION II: **Special or Called Meetings.** Special or called meetings shall be called as provided in the Bylaws. Such meetings shall be called by the Chairperson or in his/her absence, the Vice Chairperson, or on the written call of any five members of the Board, provided at least 24 hours advance notice is given. Such call shall fix the agenda, date, time, and place of such special meeting.

SECTION III: **Quorum.** A quorum of the Board shall not be less than 50% plus one of the sitting members of the Board. If a seat on the board is unoccupied, that seat shall not count towards the number of persons required to constitute a quorum.

SECTION IV: **Rules of Order.** All meetings of the Board shall follow those rules for the conduct of such meetings as set forth in *Roberts' Rules of Order* unless there is a vote to suspend the rules of the Board.

SECTION V: **Agenda.** There shall be an agenda prepared by the Chairperson assisted by assigned staff, for each meeting, listing the items to be considered, information relating to such items, and where appropriate, and other pertinent matters as determined by the Chairperson. For regular meetings, a tentative agenda will be made and sent to each member prior to the meeting.

SECTION VI: **Compensation.** The members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their duties.

ARTICLE VII OTHER COMMITTEES

SECTION I: **Appointment of Committees.** The Chairperson shall have the authority to create and appoint committees as needed. Such committees should be created at a regular or called meeting of the Board and record of same noted in the minutes. The size, membership, and term of office shall be specified at the time of committee creation. If a committee is created to serve in a special role, then a "sunset" provision should be considered as part of the committee creation.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: **Amendments.** These Bylaws may be amended, supplemented, superseded, or repealed only by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the Board provided that all Board members shall be given at least ten (10) days prior written notice of such proposed amendments or changes.

ARTICLE XI ETHICS

SECTION I: **Intent.** The public interest requires that Board members protect themselves against conflicts of interest by adhering to ethical standards with respect to the conduct of the members of the Board in situations where a conflict may exist. Board members are expected to comply with the ethical standards regarding conflict of interest and

other provisions applicable to regional Boards as found in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, specifically Sections 50-8-60 through 50-8-67 as amended.

**ARTICLE XII
ENACTMENT**

SECTION I:

Effective Date. These Bylaws shall be effective immediately following their adoption. When so adopted they shall supersede all previous Bylaws and amendments.

APPROVED: _____, 2023

EFFECTIVE: _____, 2023

***** END OF BYLAWS *****

Words for 2024 MCK Shirts

- 1) Advocate
- 2) Affirm
- 3) Forgive

High 5
Squeeze

4) ~~Not Judgmental~~ — Hope

5) ~~Encourage~~ — Encourage

6) Educated

7) Listen

8) Success

9) Positive

10) Strength

11) Non Adversarial

12) ~~Not Judgmental~~ — Dream

Good Trouble
Sacred Trust