

**MARTIN LUTHER KING BOARD MEETING
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
JANUARY 4, 2024
4:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rev. Dominique Nichols, Bibb County School District
Rev. Dominique Johnson, Kingdom Life Church
Rev. Harold Young, Tubman Museum
Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, Temple Beth Israel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andrianna Beavers, Assistant County Attorney
Dr. Mary H. Butler
Gwenette Westbrooks, MBC NAACP
Marshall Talley, Macon Black Culture
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of Commission

Call To Order

The Martin Luther King Board commemorated Dr. King's Legacy with a wreath-laying ceremony at Rosa Parks Square at 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Lucas led the annual tribute to civil rights icons and invited Maconites to engage in year-round activities honoring Dr. King.

Chairperson Elaine Lucas called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Agenda Approval

On motion by June O'Neal, and seconded by Dr. Henry Ficklin and carried unanimously, the agenda for January 4, 2024 meeting was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by June O'Neal, seconded by Dr. Henry Ficklin and carried unanimously, the minutes from December 7, 2023 were approved.

Old Business

By-Law Review

The revised by-laws were not available for review at this meeting. Commissioner Lucas asked the Board to continue reviewing the by-laws that they currently have and make suggestions for changes at the next meeting. The Board was directed to pay special attention to Section V: Attendance.

Commissioner Lucas will reach out to Rev. Dominique Nichols to see if he can send someone from the School System to represent him in his absence.

2024 MLK T-Shirts

June O'Neal is working on the number of shirts to purchase for the Martin Luther King Jr. 3rd graders. She should have a final count on Monday January 8, 2024. The MLK Board members will also receive a 2024 MLK T-Shirt.

The Board would still like to provide 2024 T-Shirts to John Lewis Elementary, but a sponsor has not been identified yet.

The Board discussed future sales of MLK T-Shirts to the public and noted that maybe next year this will be possible.

Dr. Ficklin provided a brief report on the budget.

New Business

Dr. Ficklin gave a brief bio on Mr. James Wimberly and his achievements in Macon. The 2022 Leadership Macon Class created a James Wimberly Institute Display at the Tubman Museum.

On motion by June O'Neal, seconded by Pastor Lisa Watson and carried unanimously, the Martin Luther King Jr. Board approved to sanction, support and endorse the James Wimberly Institute Barrel Breaker's Ceremony on June 15, 2024.

Charise Stephens Merriweather reported on Black Pages 200 years of Business and other Black Historical Businesses.

Rev. Evans Brown reminded the Board of the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration. This event will be at the Tubman Museum on January 15, 2024 starting at 8:00 a.m. with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Lucas asked that all Board members be in attendance. Board members are to let Sheila Griggs know who will attend to allow her to make payment on behalf of the MLK Board.

On motion by Dr. Henry Ficklin seconded by June O'Neal to support a table at the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration; the motion failed to pass.

On motion by Henry Ficklin, seconded by June O'Neal and carried unanimously, Board members can attend the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration, the Board will pay for members to attend from the Martin Luther King Jr. Budget and the cost cannot exceed Three-Hundred dollars (\$300.00) at the event.

June O'Neal shared two events with the Board.

The MLK Fun Run is on January 18th at 11 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.
MLK Parade on January 19th – 11:30 Beginning at the MLK Elementary School

Mr. Talley from Macon Black Culture reported on the successful New Years Eve Ball Drop at Rosa Parks Park.

Mr. Talley introduced his idea of a MLK Community Block Party at Rosa Parks Square on Monday June 15, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. He provided a flyer with the purpose of the event. Some members of the board expressed concerns of the time of this event interfering with those who would normally attend church. The board does not want to discourage people from attending church.

Mrs. Westbrook reported that the NAACP will feed the homeless on January 15, 2024. They will also feed the Sanitation Workers again this year.


Juneteenth Parade is scheduled for June 16, 2024 Macon Black Culture will submit the application.

Commissioner Luces asked the board to attend the next evening Commission Meeting in January to support the announcement of the Organization of the Year. The Board is seeking a place to showcase the plaque at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Sheila F. Griggs
Deputy Clerk of Commission