

**MINUTES OF THE
MACON-BIBB MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2025 – 4:00 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

June O'Neal, Mentor's Project
Rev. Dominique Johnson, Kingdom of Life Church
Joyce Humphrey, Citizen
Dr. Rev. Evans Brown, True Faith Church of God in Christ (call in)
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. Harold Young, Tubman Museum
Rev. Dominique Nichols, Bibb County School District
Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, Temple Beth Israel

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Davis, Assistant County Attorney
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Dr. Mary H. Butler
Marshall Talley, Macon Black Culture
Aminah Dixon, Macon Black Culture
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of Commission

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A 12-09-2024 MLK Meeting Minutes

On motion of Pastor Lisa Watson, seconded by Charise Stephens-Merriweather and passed unanimously, the minutes from December 9, 2024, were approved.

3. Old Business

The Board discussed the reappointment of Commissioner Lucas and other new members. The mayor has not made any appoints to the Board as of this meeting. Marshall Talley expressed his interest in serving on the Board.

4. New Business

Marshall Talley and Aminah Dixon from Macon Black Culture presented the Board with a letter regarding their vision for the community that they believe aligns perfectly with the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They presented EastSideOutLoud Unity Day as a new annual event to the Board and requested that the Board sanction the event.

Members of the Board asked for clarity on the parade to celebrate the success of Northeast Football Team and EastSideOutLoud Unity Day.

There was confusion that they may or may not be the same event.

Marshall Talley explained that both events are incorporated into one and that he would be the point of contact to clear up any confusion this year and the years to come. MLK Board was invited to participate in the Parade.

The Board decided that there should be a proclamation for both EastSideOutLoud Unity Day and Northeast High School Football Team. Dr. Ficklin will work on preparing them.

Pastor Evans Brown gave report on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast that will be at the Tubman African American Museum, Monday January 20, 2024, starting at 8:00 a.m.

The Board discussed where to have the Martin Luther King Jr. Wreath Laying Ceremony since Rosa Parks Square Park is under construction.

They decided to have the ceremony at City Hall in Commissioner's Chambers next week. Date and time will be presented to the Board and the Community as soon as it is confirmed.

June O'Neal stated that she is still working on the 2025 MLK T-shirt's that will be presented to the schools. She should have a report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lucas invited the Board to attend the swearing in of Georgia General Assembly where Senator Lucas will be sworn in for his 50th year as a member of legislation. The event is on January 13, 2025, they have two busses leaving that morning all is welcome.

The Board decided not to purchase a table at the 2025 All That Jazz Concert and Gala. If members want to go and support the Tubman African American Museum, they will need to purchase their own tickets.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.