



North Carolina Martin Luther King Jr. Commission

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

10:00am – 12:30pm

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting with a Call in Option

(This meeting was recorded and said recording is available upon request.)

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kiana Rivers, James Williams, Jr., Jamilla Hawkins, Rev. James White, and Rabbi Lucy Dinner, Larry Jones, Jr. (late appearance)

Members Not Present: Nervahna Crew, Edwin Booth, Immanuel Jarvis , Jacqueline Jeffers, Walter Rogers

Government Staff Present: Betty Marrow-Taylor, Shanon Gerger

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman White welcomed the MLK Jr. Commission to the meeting.

Invocation

Chairman White gave an Invocation to the Commission.

Virtual Public Meetings Norms/Rules

Betty Marrow-Taylor reminded the Commission that members need to be identified when role, when they speak and prior to voting if their camera is off; all forms of communications are public records if it pertains to the meeting; quorums are established at the beginning and can be lost when a member leaves during the meeting; voting is called by roll call; and, if you leave before the end of the meeting please put time you left in the chat box for quorums purposes.

Ethics Statement

Chairman White read the Ethics Statement to the Commission. No conflicts were identified.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Marrow-Taylor called the role. A quorum was not established.

Grants Discussion

Shanon Gerger provided an overview of the grant process and applications received. The grant applications were sent out with the due date of November 15th. Six applications were received via email, no other application were received. All application were reviewed for basic minimum requirements (i.e. verification of 501(c)(3), status, submission requirements, etc). Gerger explained that there were several calls from applicants prior to the deadline with concerns over completing the letter of reference portion of the application and she explained that she would not withhold an application from Commission review due to this issue. Gerger stated that she did not disqualify any applicant for the reason of their purpose not aligning as that was Commission's determination. Gerger stated that several application corporate seal was not visible on the email version but all met the 501(c)(3) and NC Secretary of State registration requirements. Gerger pointed out several points of interest regarding applicant's collaborative partnerships, age groups, and budget specifics.

White asked for the physical locations for each of the grant applicants. White asked specifically for the coverage area of applicant National Montford Point Marine Association and briefly asked about the purpose of the program being an essay contest and questioned the budget requested. White turned the discussion over to Commissioner Hawkins to guide the discussion further.

Hawkins stated that the Commission had a good mix of rural and urban areas, did not receive applications from southeastern or western counties in NC. The total request was \$5,274.86. Hawkins suggested starting with National Montford Point Marine Association and discuss each application.

National Montford Point Marine Association requested \$1,000.00 for an essay contest for students between ages of 13-19 and 20-30. The theme of the essay being "all service has purpose." There was discussion of the purpose of the application being an essay question, questions regarding the proposed budget, concerns about how well thought out the program was and how/if this was connected to actions. Dinner asked if the Commission can go back and provide feedback on the application.

Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation requested \$724.86 for a program focusing on an "I have a dream" career action plan serving 50 boys of color in the Durham area for ages 14-18. The purpose of the program is to create action plans and uploading them into Youtube. Their budget includes funds for camcorder, parchment paper, toner, plaques, ink, and tax. There was discussion regarding the purpose of the program, it was liked that it prepares for college, and feels the program was thought out. There was concerns that it is not in an area of the Commission's concern. The organization has variety of funding streams and it was appreciative of the honesty in budget, very specific in funding request. Application was very specific in their model and what they need.

iEmpower is located in Elizabeth City and requested \$1,000.00 for a program focusing on a men in black tribute to MLK, Jr., serving 50 young men in grades 5-12, and connecting them with men in the community. The program includes a number of activities for the event and the budget included rental, food, etc. There was discussion and questions regarding their proposed virtual plan. Rivers stated that she knows the organization and feels it is an amazing organization and the people who run it are pillars in the community, she is from Elizabeth City and is excited about possibility of funding the area. There was discussion on not listing collaborative partners in this area but discussed that connecting with men in community is a collaborative partnership. There

was concerns about assuming the program has access to computer and internet resources.

Brother Organized To Serve Others requested \$1,000.00 for a Mentorship program for youth, including virtual trainings and life skills training. The budget is focused on providing masks and sanitizer for 30 families, zoom services at \$15.00 for 12 months, supplies for workshops and space rentals. There was discussion regarding the location of this program being in a rough area and group focus targeting juvenile justice youth, the goal of the program, how this program is related to Dr. King's message. There were concerns that it appeared the applicant was asking for funds for their daily operations and the application does not align with the theme of this grant cycle. The organization seems to be connected to numerous funding sources already.

CareerShare is located in Mebane and requested \$550.00 for a program which focuses on increasing career exposure, educate others about career pathways, inspire career realities. The budget is focused on paying for zoom fees. There was discussion regarding the application not providing specifics around the target population or number of served, or their proposed outcomes and the grant application does not align with the theme of this grant cycle.

Rivers asked if there was any way to reach out to applicants about aligning to the theme. White feels that would present a bias or appearance of bias. Hawkins stated that applicants had opportunities to reach out to program staff to ask about alignment.

Michael's Angels' Girls Club is located in Tarboro and requested \$1,000.00 for a program of "converting idleness to action," serving young women ages 9-18 from diverse background. The program is aimed to create well rounded female servant leaders. The budget focuses on facilities cost, education supplies and CIA program materials. There was discussion regarding the organization has been awarded \$53,000 in grants for 2020 fiscal year already and is providing good work to the community but it does not align with Dr. King's message or with the theme of the grant cycle.

Hawkins asked the Commission if there were any applications that were disqualified or we "no". The Commission reviewed the comments on CareerShare, Michael's Angel's and Brothers Organizes To Serve Others which did not align with the theme.

White if we don't use all \$5,000.00, what can the Commission use funding for, and can the Commission give more to the applicants than what they are asking for? Marrow-Taylor will reach out to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) on funds and offered that the Commission may be able to send out a 2nd request. Gerger stated that if the Commission decides to provide additional funding that they request an amended budget from applicants beforehand.

Dinner asked if there are any extenuating circumstances because of the pandemic. CareerShare did indicate how the pandemic has affected their organization. Rivers asked if it is fair to reach out to the 3 applications that did not provide information that aligned with the theme to provide a supplemental statement.

Gerger provided the timeline for processing contracts and explained that reaching out to organizations would push timeline back. She recommended that they state how many grants they are funding and reach out to all applicants to provide this information to be consistent, recommend give them 3-5 days because if they want this grant they will

make this a priority and if they are aligned to the purpose of this grant they should have this information close at hand.

Marrow-Taylor explained she reached out to the CFO, the Commission has until June 30, 2021 to disburse this funding, the funding has been designated as grant funding so the Commission can wait until after the holiday and redo this grant, and there is additional funding that can be used towards training of these organizations, or other events. The budget for the Commission has \$5,000.00 set aside for grants.

White stated he does not want to rush this process and move forward with what we are clear on. Hawkins stated that the Commission was clear on the iEmpower (\$1,000.00), Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation (\$724.86), and National Montford Point Marine Association (\$1,000.00) application. Dinner made a motion to move forward with funding iEmpower, CHHF, and NMPMA with the funding amount requested. Williams seconded the motion.

Announcements/Updates/Next Meeting Date

Marrow-Taylor reported that Governor's Public Engagement Office and Chief of Staff is working on MLK day planning is underway, it will be virtual, will ask if they can recognize the grantees and the Commission during the celebration. She asked if there were any ideas the Commission would recommend.

Marrow-Taylor reported that there are four new appointees that will be starting in January. Those appointees are: Rodney Harris, JuanKerra Sanders, Rebecca Trammel, and Dr. Allison Matthews. She will follow up on one more appointee not stated.

White explained that there is a unique opportunity with the Triangle MLK Committee. Bishop Curry is keynote at this year's event. If is possible to make some type of contribution to this event. Marrow-Taylor will follow-up to see if these is a conflict. Dinner asked if the Commission could join with other organizations to collaborate in this event.

Motions/Role Call Votes

Dinner made a motion to move forward with funding iEmpower (\$1,000.00), Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation (\$724.86), and National Montford Point Marine Association (\$1,000.00) application. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimously role call vote.

Next Meeting Date

The Commission dates for 2021 are: Tuesday, January 12, 2021; Tuesday, April 13, 2021; Tuesday, July 13, 2021; Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Marrow-Taylor suggested the idea of holding working meeting, committee check-in meetings approximately 6 weeks or in between quarterly meetings.

Meeting Adjourned