



**District of Columbia Commission on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
Meeting Minutes  
200 I Street SE Washington, DC 20003  
April 2, 2014**

**Participants:**

Commission Members: Denise Rolark Barnes, Earl Fowlkes, Charles Hicks, Aaron Jones, Lee Brian Reba, Douglass Sloan, Judith Terra. Ex Officio Members: Clarence Fluker, Lionell Thomas

Guests: James Simmons, The Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Staff: Sharon Anderson, Office of the Secretary

**General Discussion**

- Commissioner Lionell Thomas called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM, noting that a quorum was present. He announced Chairman Brock-Smith's absence due to a family matter.

**The Memorial Foundation**

- The Foundation promotes awareness about The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.
- The Commission is invited to participate in a Candlelight Vigil on Friday, April 4, to acknowledge the day that Dr. King was assassinated.
- Mr. Simmons also provided information about activities being planned by the Foundation during the year and welcomed the Commission's participation.

**Review Minutes – March 5, 2014**

- Minutes from the March 5, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Program Planning Committee Report; Lionell Thomas, Chair**

- During a joint conference call with the Development Committee on March 31, it was agreed to focus on events for August 28<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> in order to allow for sufficient planning, fund raising, and event preparation, the committee recommended focusing on August 28<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Commission members discussed additional activities that could be held during the year: the upcoming Emancipation Day celebration (April 16); May 17<sup>th</sup> marking Dr. King's speech at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington DC on May 17, 1957; re-introducing the January parade, and partnering with the MLK Memorial Library.
- Action Item: By April 18, Commissioners are asked to provide ideas for an August 28<sup>th</sup> celebration of the March on Washington.
- Action Item: Commissioner Thomas will contact Council Member Vincent Orange regarding the Great Debate that will be held for Emancipation Day.

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**Commission Web Presence; Sharon Anderson, Office of the Secretary**

- Official notifications of the Commission meetings are posted in the *D.C. Register* the Friday before the meeting.
- Commission minutes and agendas will be posted on the Office of the Secretary website.
- A Facebook page will be developed to provide social media outreach.

**Development Committee Report; Lee Brian Reba, Chair**

- Reviewed the spreadsheet of previous donors that was e-mailed to the Commission.
- Future discussions will be held about requesting “seed money” to plan programs, special events, and activities as well as Commission fundraising logistics.

**New Business**

No new business items were identified.

**Next Meeting**

The Commission will meet Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 1:00 PM at the Office of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM.

**Corrected version approved: May 7, 2014**