



Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Platform: WebEx

Time: 3:07 PM – 3:41 PM

Lead: Secretary Kimberly Bassett

In Attendance: Carlos Davis, Robert Brannum, Angie Gates, Nicholas Weil, Charles Hicks, Thomas Bowen, Kimberly Bassett, Emily Martin

1. Update on MLK Programming from Secretary Bassett.
 - a. We will participate in the UPO MLK Breakfast on 1.14.22 at 9:30 AM.
 - i. Commissioners will be included in the virtual Ad book.
 - b. Were planning for an event with MLK III at the MLK Library on MLK Day 2022, however MLK III could not participate, and no in-person programming at the Library has been suspended.
2. Secretary Bassett asked Rev. Bowen about any programming.
 - a. One of the things MORA has planned is the “Future of Faith in DC”, to see what the future of the Faith community, including housing needs of Residents.
 - b. Supporting Serve DC with the Peace Walk led by Denise Rolark Barnes on 1.17.22.
 - i. As of a few days ago, the event is still scheduled to take place, though things may change.
 - c. Will be present for the National Action Network Breakfast on 1.17.22, and will present a letter from Mayor Bowser in honor of their Anniversary.
 - i. Letter has already been written by the Mayor’s Correspondence Unit.
3. Secretary Bassett asked Director Gates about programming.
 - a. Nothing planned for OCTMFE at this time, as they have been covering press conferences, situational updates, etc.
 - b. OCTFME will create a PSA in honor of the holiday, which will be placed on rotation on DCN on 1.17.21.
4. Secretary Bassett asked Public Members about events.
 - a. Charles Hicks sent an article about the King’s family wishes not to celebrate MLK Day until legislation on Voting Rights is passed.
 - i. Suggested the MLK Commission logo be added to the banner for the Peace Walk, as well as a donation made on behalf of the Commission.
 - ii. Requested that the Mayor attend the Peace Walk and provide remarks

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- iii. *Secretary Bassett mentioned that Rev. Bowen is in touch with Denise Rolark Barnes and can pass this information along.*
- iv. *Reverend Bowen mentioned that an issue was brought to him regarding the King family's wishes to not celebrate the Holiday, however, they are participating in the Peace Walk and are not against the National Action Network.*
- v. Charles Hicks clarified that the Peace Walk is not a celebration. Mr. Hicks will pass along the article to Rev. Bowen.
- b. Robert Brannum is awaiting guidance from the Commission and the Secretary. He is also working with Charles Hicks on the Peace Walk.
- c. Charles Hicks highlighted the DC Black History Organization, in collaboration with other organizations, including downtown churches in working on a possible virtual program on Dr. King and the issues we face today at the New York Presbyterian Church, with a possible date of 1.16.22. Keynote speaker list includes Rev. Nuttall.
- d. *Rev. Bowen mentioned the Washington Hebrew Congregation will host a virtual Shabbat on 1.14.21, at 6:00 PM. Keynote speaker this year will be Angela Alsobrooks.*
- e. *Secretary Bassett asked that all Commissioners send information to her and Emily Martin on any events.*
- f. Carlos Davis mentioned the idea of having Council members reach out to their Ward residents to take part in a "day on" rather than a "day off", and participate in small actions in their community.
- g. *Secretary Bassett mentioned that Serve DC works on this each year, and that the Commission can help amplify these events and promote any messaging.*
- h. Robert Brannum suggested having a virtual call with all Commissioners to make a one or two sentence statement on what the Holiday means to them.
 - i. *Director Gates offered that OCTFME may be able to assist, and gave the Commission a 48-hour deadline to present something.*
5. Charles Hicks requested that the article he shared be sent out to all Commissioners.
6. Secretary Bassett closed out the meeting by thanking everyone and asking them to stay safe.
7. Next week's meeting on 1.11.22 will be moved from 6:30 PM to 3:00 PM.