



**State of Connecticut
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Commission**

Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities,
Secretariat 21 Grand Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860/541-3400



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, April 23, 2008 1:00
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
NEWINGTON

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Dennis J. King
William Dixon
Benjamin Rhodes
Rodney Matthews
Sarah Diaz
Diane Paige-Blondet
Mark Robinson
Rev. Carlton Giles

Commissioner Absent

Apostle Bradford Howard Jr.
James Williams
Carol Anderson

Chairperson Commissioner King welcomed each Commissioner participating in the meeting both present and those on the conference call.

1. Commissioner King wanted the record to show that there was a quorum. The minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2008 were approved as written.

2. Commissioner King noted that Commissioners Anderson called and advised that she was unable to attend due to the fact that she had a meeting scheduled that she could not change and Commissioner Howard called and advised that he was ill and was unable to attend.
3. Commissioner King began with a review of the budget and then inquired as to what other options had the commission considered in terms of financing other venues/activities.
4. There was a discussion among commissioners in terms of underwriting the cost of the Youth Conference and the actual King Ceremony itself. Commissioner Matthews and Commissioner Robinson were going to collaborate on shirts and other material with the commission logo being sold to assist in the fundraising and get back to the commission at our next meeting. Motion moved by Commissioner Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Rhodes.
5. Commissioners Rhodes advised that he would further inquire as to the possibility of getting funding from the company that he worked for. He was going to provide the names and contacts for the commission at our next meeting. Motion moved by Commissioner Giles and seconded by Commissioner Robinson.
6. Several members of the commission inquired as to what guidelines the commission had in terms of the statutes Commissioner Robinson noted that according to the statutes, the commission shall: **(1) Ensure that the commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the state is meaningful and reflective of the spirit with which he lived and the struggles for which he died, (2) maintain a clearinghouse of programs and activities relating to the observance and promotion of such birthday in the state, (3) cooperate with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, community organizations and municipalities in the state, (4) develop and implement programs and activities for the state as it deems appropriate and (5) not later than September first, annually, submit to the Governor a report on its findings, conclusions, proposals and recommendations for the observance of such birthday in the following January. (c) The commission may use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out the purposes of this section.**
7. Commissioner Giles proposed a subcommittee consisting of him and Commissioners Diaz and Paige-Blondet. This subcommittee would submit a draft letter to the commission that would be sent to the towns and municipalities across the state inquiring as to what activities were being planned in observation of the 2009 Federal Holiday. Additionally this subcommittee would draft a letter to the Governor with the results of its findings, recommendations and proposals. Motion moved by Commissioner Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Matthews.
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9. Commissioner King thanked the commissioners for attending either in person or via phone.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.