

**Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Friday March 8, 2024**

**Time: 1:00 PM, Location: 310 San Pedro Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108**

**Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7539274024>**

Meeting called to Order at 1:13 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Dr. Bobbie Green

Vice Chair Clarence Smith

Christine Anaya, designee for the State Treasurer’s Office

Joseph Cotton

Collin Gillespie

Atty Little West

Brigitte Jordan and Josett Monette, Cabinet Secretary of NM Indian Affairs

**Commissioners Absent:** Stacy Blakemore, Oscar Robinson

**Quorum established.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Joe Cotton moved to approve the agenda. Second by Vice Chair Clarence Smith. Motion to approve passed by roll call vote (below):

Roll Call Vote to approve agenda.	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain or Recuse
Blakemore	absent			
Cotton		Yes		
Gillespie		Yes		
Green		Yes		
Robinson	absent			
Brigitte Jordan representing NM Indian Affairs		Yes		
Smith		Yes		
West		Yes		

**Approval of Previous Minutes dated 1-12-2024** tabled so that all Commissioners have an opportunity to review the minutes.

**Community Input** – None (No community members were present.)

**Report from Executive Director Leonard Waites**

Exec. Dir Waites reported the budget is as follows:

Category	Budgeted	Currently available
200 (Payroll)	\$223,600	\$115,528.60
300 (Contractual)	\$27,800	\$19,028.56
400 (Miscellaneous)	\$116,900	\$12,632.94

Dir Waites noted that he plans to submit a budget adjustment request (BAR) to move funds from the 200 category to the 400 category.

This year's house appropriation for the Commission was increased to \$386,700 which is an increase of \$18,400 from last year. That increase will be allocated to the 200 category. The goal is to hire a Coordinator for FY25.

Dir Waites has contracted with DFA to train Associate Director Beverly Gaines on execution, analysis, forecasts, and management of the MLK budget requests and submissions. Dir Waites will be the approver of all submissions.

Dir Waites announced that the 2024 Youth Leadership Conference will be held July 18-21 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. He showed a video of last year's Youth Leadership Conference in Las Cruces.

The Exec Director is currently accepting funding proposals from organizations for support of Juneteenth 2024 events. Those proposals should be submitted as soon as possible.

The Exec Director went to Selma Alabama this past week and participated in the 59th anniversary commemoration of Bloody Sunday and the march across the Edmund Pettes Bridge.

In response to the question changing the statute, the LFC when making their budgeting decisions looks at the statute as it currently exists, and there needs to be an update to better reflect the current accomplishments of the Commission as well as the staffing needs of the Commission.

Vice Chair Smith commended the Exec. Director on the excellent Youth Leadership Conference in 2023 and admonished all Commissioners to attend this year's MLK Youth Leadership Conference if possible.

Chair Green notified the Commission that the Exec. Directors annual performance evaluation will be due no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>. Requesting a personnel Committee to prepare a recommendation for the Commission to review.

Associate Director Gaines welcomed the new members of the Commission and noted that plans are underway for the upcoming MLK Youth Leadership Conference in collaboration with other State Agencies and the Albuquerque Public Schools.

### **Old Business**

Park & Associates were unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict. They will be invited to a future meeting to answer questions from the Commission regarding the lawsuits which have been dismissed.

**Acknowledgements/Announcements**

New member of the Commission, Josett Monette addressed the Commission and noted that she is the new Cabinet Secretary for the NM Indian Affairs Department. She was appointed in December 2023 and confirmed in February 2024. She is a practicing attorney and was originally hired as General Counsel for the IAD. She is committed to serving on the Commission or making sure that there is a representative from her office when she is unable to participate. She noted that there is also a Youth Council at IAD and looks forward to collaborating with the MLK Youth Leadership Program.

New representative from the State Treasurer's Office is Christine Anaya who serves as the new Special Projects Coordinator for the Treasurer's Office. She has held that position for four months. She will be the designee from the STO and also looks forward to participating and supporting the work of the Commission.

**New Business - None**

**Next Meeting-** June 14, 2024

**Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM**