

***These Meetings Minutes are not official until approved by the  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration/Juneteenth Celebration  
Advisory Committee***

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND  
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 30, 2025  
6:30 P.M.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Hearn called the special meeting of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee to order at 6:50 P.M. at the Culver City Senior Center.

Present: LaToya Hearn, Chair  
Amber Kearney, Vice Chair  
Karna Bibbins-McKeever, Member  
Christian Green, Member  
Curtis Raynor, Member  
Andrew Weiss, Member

Absent: Lisa Gordon Cain, Member  
Carissa Joy Smith, Member

Staff: Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community  
Services Director  
Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community  
Services Manager  
Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst

oOo

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Raynor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

o0o

**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda**

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Associate Analyst, reported that no public comment was received for Items NOT On the Agenda.

o0o

**Receipt of Correspondence**

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Associate Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

o0o

**Consent Calendar Items**

None.

o0o

**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

o0o

**Action Items**

Item A-1

**MLKJCC – Selection of the Master of Ceremony for the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Chair Hearn introduced the item noting that she serves on the subcommittee; discussed the staff recommendation to hold a special meeting; division about the recommendation coming forth; and individuals up for consideration.

Member Bibbins-McKeever discussed the recommendation received from the person selected for the original date who was not available for the alternate date, and she provided background

on Shynieka Taylor for consideration to serve as Master of Ceremony.

Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community Services Manager, indicated that a bio had been provided to Committee Members for Teck Holmes; she discussed his experience; staff efforts to replace the original Master of Ceremony; consideration of recommendations; the process engaged in to come to the staff recommendation; questions that have come up in past events; and the qualified individuals proposed.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding differences between the two individuals being considered; items that were initially discovered by the ad hoc subcommittee; additional research; a tweet that staff found to be questionable; subcommittee vetting of Shynieka Taylor; providing notoriety that would bring people in; relevant credentials; the tweet that triggered a higher level discussion; additional research that uncovered additional items; the responsibility of staff to look out for the best interests of the City; representation of the Mayor and the City Manager; acknowledgement that staff will be over-cautious with representation at events; removal of the posts; vetting at the subcommittee level; subcommittee alignment for the best representation of Culver City; the recommendation from the initial Master of Ceremony; ensuring that Culver City is reflected in the best way possible; staff openness to what the Committee decides; due diligence; recent information for Ms. Taylor who is an influencer; lack of clarity as to what Mr. Holmes has done in the community; having a choice and being able to compare potential hosts; making a recommendation; a suggestion to give them both a chance by using one for each event; costs; bringing the brand and the energy needed for the MLK Celebration; keeping the focus on MLK; the feeling that celebrity is not necessary; people affected by the fires; and concern with having a showy event rather than having a day of service.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that he was the one who had called for the special meeting; noted the importance of having the discussion in an open forum with a majority quorum of the Committee; discussed the work of staff on short notice to obtain the services of a very well qualified possibility for a host; the

second person suggested; deleted social media; acceptance of the Committee decision; the goal of the special meeting; and appreciation that Committee Members and staff were able to attend with such short notice.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the subcommittee recommendation; review of the posting flagged for concern; and assurances that the subcommittee had engaged in a vetting process.

MOVED BY MEMBER RAYNOR, SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT MEMBERS GORDON CAIN AND SMITH), THAT THE MLK JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHOOSE SHYNieKA TAYLOR TO BE MASTER OF CEREMONY FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EVENT.

Francisca Castillo, Recreation and Community Services Manager, indicated that staff would inform the candidates first thing tomorrow morning.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, expressed gratitude to the Committee Members for coming out on short notice and engaging in due diligence.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding involvement of subcommittee members in discussions; the contract discussion; and letting subcommittee members know that the Master of Ceremony had been confirmed.

o0o

**Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Hearn invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Jennifer Fairchild provided background on herself; asked to be part of the team; discussed her participation in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2017; her pursuit of a career as a producer since 1984; efforts to get an LLC; participation in other MLK celebrations; and she distributed contact information for those interested in communicating with her.

Member Weiss exited the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

o0o

**Items from Members/Staff**

Chair Hearn discussed the importance of refining processes and communication among the Committee; ensuring transparency; establishing protocol; understanding next steps and what is going on in staff conversations that the Committee is not privy to; and she hoped to lock in processes before Juneteenth.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding use of a scheduling tool for subcommittee meetings, and communication with Edgar Varela.

Chair Hearn expressed appreciation to everyone for their hard work; indicated that she would not be able to attend the event; and she reported that Vice Chair Kearney would be handling the closing of the event.

o0o

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:27 P.M., the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee adjourned.

o0o

---

Dorian Jackson  
SECRETARY of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and  
Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

---

LATOYA HEARNS  
CHAIR of the Culver City Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration  
and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

---

Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

---

Date