

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

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

March 18, 2025
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Bibbins-McKeever called the regular meeting of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee to order at 6:45 P.M. in Rooms C75 and C77 at the Culver City Senior Center.

Present: Karena Bibbins-McKeever, Chair
LaToya Hearn, Vice Chair
Lisa Gordon Cain, Member
Anasia Obioha, Member
Curtis Raynor, Member
Andrew Weiss, Member

Staff: Adam Ferguson, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager
Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Weiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reported that no public comment had been received for Items NOT On the Agenda.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Martin Luther King Jr.
Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee
Meeting of December 17, 2025**

MOVED BY MEMBER RAYNOR, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2025.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

MLKJCC - ((1) Consideration of a Budget Letter to City Council Regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Respective Adopted Budgets, and (2) Consideration of Selecting a Committee Member to Draft a Letter to City Council with Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Adjustment Recommendations

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, clarified that all the funds were not used last year; discussed the staff recommendation to move forward with \$27,000 again this year; the declaration by the City Manager that he would deliver a balanced budget; past experience indicating that nationally Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) is usually hit the hardest by budget cuts; the ability of Committee Members to speak to the City Council during budget presentations in May and for the final vote in June; increased community engagement in the budget process; clarification that it is too late for a budget letter; and additional information available by mid-April.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding City Manager listening sessions; business plans submitted to the City Manager; public review of the budget in May; opportunities for the public to provide input; agreement to vote on a Member to attend and advocate on behalf of the Committee; the ability to send two people; establishing consensus on what would be communicated; and meeting time.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER OBIOHA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEND MEMBER GORDON-CAIN AND VICE CHAIR HEARNS TO SPEAK AT THE BUDGET MEETINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that Member Gordon Cain would craft talking points for Committee review at the April meeting.

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Item A-2

MLKJCC – Receipt and Filing of an Evaluation from Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration & Juneteenth Advisory Committee Members Concerning the Martin Luther King Jr. Event that took place on January 17, 2026

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, introduced the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding positive feedback; small technical difficulties; not

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Juneteenth Celebration
Advisory Committee
March 18, 2026

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using Alta for food again; support for the choir; support for tightening up the run of show; addressing the disjointed feeling by having blocks of speakers and then blocks of entertainment; Committee Member arrival times; being present early to help; ensuring everyone knows where they need to be throughout the event; ensuring the event is accessible to persons of all abilities; increasing inclusion for those with vision and hearing impairment; timing of the release of food; the feeling that when you move people, you lose people; being aware of the movement of attendees; MLK Day as an opportunity to educate; paying homage to recently passed civil rights leaders; missed opportunities; the Happy Birthday song by Stevie Wonder; the feeling that the two vendors should provide the same amount of food; food that arrived after the event was over; a suggestion to have a central registration desk with handouts and educational resources; the need for additional signage; limited participation in the voting rights activity due to lack of awareness; the community video; appreciation for the music; and support for increased student involvement and increased marketing and promotion of the event.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding lengthy talking portions; the feeling of being at a school assembly; surprise speakers; lighting; allowing Members to understand the schedule; alerting Members to final changes; knowing which elected officials will be attending and speaking; a suggestion to run a rehearsal with AV prior to the event; appreciation for the speeches from the elected officials who attended; positive feedback on the photo reel; appreciation for the DJ; areas of opportunity for City staff to help with parking and wayfinding; help with the stage and with the food situation; a suggestion to have a set time for photography with the elected officials; display of photographs of past events on the webpage; the sadness and irony of Juneteenth; ensuring sufficient education about Juneteenth; the service project; event attendance; inclusion of information in the staff report; and information for the end of year report to the City.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE THE EVALUATION FROM THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION & JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CONCERNING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE ON
JANUARY 17, 2026.

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Item A-3

**MLKJCC – Approval of the Event Date for the June 2026 Juneteenth
Celebration**

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, provided a summary of
the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members
regarding potential dates; outreach; conflicting events; City
events vs. private events; difficulty communicating with Malik
Books; and differing goals.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
APPROVE JUNE 20, 2026, AS THE EVENT DATE FOR THE JUNE 2026
JUNETENTH CELEBRATION.

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Item A-4

**MLKJCC – Approval of a Vendor for the 2026 Juneteenth
Celebration**

Chair Bibbins-McKeever introduced the item.

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, provided a summary of
the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members
regarding pros and cons of different locations; allowing for
summer games for children if the event is held in a park;
possibilities afforded by holding an event at Veterans Memorial
Park due to the location; the ability to have screens; and
screens used for movie night.

Member Raynor moved that the event be held at Veterans Memorial Park and Chair Bibbins-McKeever seconded the motion.

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, indicated that additional information was available.

Member Raynor rescinded his motion.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the Culver City Garden Show taking place in Veterans Memorial Auditorium that weekend; potential parking issues; potential for a partnership; limiting people from grabbing food and leaving; people who stop by and are not invested in the event; the overlap in timing of the location; alternative locations for parking; adding barriers to food access to prevent people who are not invested in the event; event crossover; banners; clarification that use of the facility is free; back up plans in the case of rain; cost to have tents; and the feeling that postponing the event would be the best option in the event of rain.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AS THE VENUE FOR THE 2026 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION.

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Item A-5

MLKJCC - Receipt and File the Update from the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Chair Bibbins-McKeever reported that the PR, Marketing and Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met to provide recommendations on artists, DJs and other entertainment for the event; noted that information had been provided to Edgar Varela; discussed the intent to bring back the idea of having local artists do a mural during the event and donate it; use of the artist, Mike Norris; creating a story-telling or songwriting pop-up; providing a space at the event for creatives; and learning from people in the space.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding spoken word; the Teen Center; the former Mayme A. Clayton Museum; finding a place to house the piece that is being created; the Nature Center; the process for donating artwork; the temporary display of the live mural done on 2023; lack of space to permanently store artwork; involvement of the Cultural Affairs Commission; allowing the artist to keep the piece; creating imagery to reuse for Juneteenth 2027; a request to have staff and the subcommittee research where artwork could be kept in Culver City; acquisitions as part of a permanent collection; identification of the artist for the Black National Anthem; PR and marketing; updating the listserv; email blasts; calendaring a date to email flyers; ensuring there are enough email blasts to remind people; looking at how more people can be signed up; Eventbrite; having media cover the event; and agendizing a future marketing discussion.

Member Weiss reported on the recent meeting of the History and Education for Martin Luther King Jr. & Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed possible activities; potential reuse of the voting display used for the MLK Celebration; the November initiative; providing a reading area with Juneteenth books and coloring books; highlighting Black American women who made important contributions and are not household names but should be; and having an in memoriam section using the big screen.

Vice Chair Hearn discussed sharing the history and significance of the holiday on the main stage; having a dedicated story-time area for children; inviting the City Clerk to have a table and speak on voting; providing handouts; helping people understand needed identification and how to access it; and eliminating barriers for those who want to vote.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding communication with the Middle School and High School principals; willingness of Opal Lee to participate via Zoom; technological abilities; observing a moment of silence for the in-memoriam section; determining who is included in the in memoriam section; further consideration by the subcommittee; and openness of all subcommittee to suggestions.

No reports were available from the 2026 Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee, the Budget Letter to City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee, Sponsorship/Donation for MLK & Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee, Student Engagement for MLK and Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and Volunteer Engagement for MLK and Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittees.

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, reported on the recent meeting of the Food and Non-Food Vendor for MLK & Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee noting consideration of local Black-owned vendors.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding food trucks; speed of food distribution; working through the process of who is eligible for food; ensuring that food goes to people who are participating in the event; pre-determined portions; for sale food vs. what is being given away; the BBQ pit aesthetic; ensuring the food is spread out; allowing people to bring food to the event; creating a family-reunion atmosphere; having a voter registration booth; other vendors; lawn games; utilizing the entire space; encouraging people to bring their own chairs and blankets; having ice cream; and subcommittee recommendations.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding student engagement; attempts to reduce the voting age; getting more young people involved in the voting process; free merchandise to pass out; the feeling that if one can get a gun one should be able to vote; communication with school principals; sending a Save the Date to the District; whether schools have to be located in Culver City; clarification on what constitutes a discussion; updates vs. discussions; a request to agendaize discussions of what subcommittees are doing; the desire for more input into subcommittees; and a suggestion that rather than having subcommittees, items be placed on the agenda for full Committee discussion.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE UPDATE FROM THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES.

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Item A-6

MLKJCC - Receipt and File the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, with Adjustments, if any

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a request to agendize discussion of all Subcommittee reports; allowing the full Committee to provide recommendations to the subcommittees; allowing everyone to feel like they have contributed; clarification that subcommittees are not necessary if the full Committee considers the items; allowing the public to understand what is being talked about; the inability to meet quorum; concern that in the past, procedures have not been followed properly; allowing people to take a deeper dive in a subcommittee setting; the need to agendize open discussion; the need for subcommittees to formulate a plan and then bring it forward for full Committee discussion vs. bringing forward ideas for discussion by the full Committee; information to be provided to staff before the meeting; and the deadline for adding materials to the agenda.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding agenda items for the next meeting including a discussion on the budget, recommendations on Entertainment and Food and Non-Food Vendors, History and Education, PR and Marketing, and Student Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittees, and the PRCS staff update on the 2026 MLK Celebration; understanding how much the budget is for each of the subcommittees; the need for a discussion of run of show and a Juneteenth budget breakdown; concern with agenda length; scheduling subcommittee meetings; staff availability; the ability of subcommittees to meet by Zoom; vetting the feasibility of items with staff before coming to the full Committee; being ready with a solid recommendation for the full Committee to vote on; and staff availability outside of regular work hours.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER OBIOHA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
RECEIVE AND FILE THE UPDATED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION
AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION COMMITTEES 2026 MEETING CALENDAR.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Bibbins-McKeever invited public comment.

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received for Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda.

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Items from Members/Staff

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, invited Members to attend a meeting on April 9 at Tellefson Park to provide input on parks improvements.

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, discussed monthly Vibes After Five events at the Helms Bakery and the Spring Marketplace on April 18 with more information available at culvercity.org and on social media.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the upcoming Spring Egg Hunt Adventure; Committee Members who stepped down; and recruitment of new Committee Members.

Committee Members sang Happy Birthday to Special Events Manager Edgar Varela.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:15 P.M., the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on April 15, 2026.

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

APPROVED _____

KARENA BIBBINS-MCKEEVER
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