

**COMMITTEE**

ANGIE O'NEAL  
Committee Member

JOYCE AWURO  
Committee Member

TAWANA LAMAR  
Committee Member

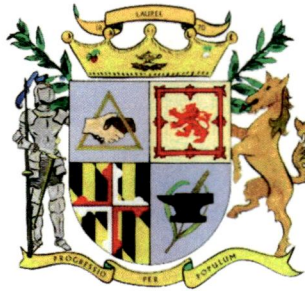
KIA YOUNG  
Committee Member

WILLIAM CHASE  
Committee Member

VERONICA MARTIN  
Committee Member

ARTESA JONES  
Committee Member

Committee meets on the second  
Wednesday of each month.



SANDRA CHOUTE  
Chair

JEFFREY MILLS  
Councilmember, Ex-officio

TROY GRIFFITH  
Secretary

MARIA MORALES  
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300  
[www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)

**LAUREL JUNETEENTH EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
6:00 PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm with Chairwoman Sandra Choute presiding. The following committee members were present: Troy Griffith, Artesa Jones, and William Chase. Tawana Lamar joined meeting at 6:20pm. Staff Present was: Maria Morales, Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk. There were no members of the public present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Choute requested a motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Troy Griffith made a motion, to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. William Chase seconded the motion that was then carried out by a roll call vote of all committee members present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Choute requested a motion to approve the Agenda for the meeting. Ms. Artesa Jones made a motion, to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion that was then carried on by a roll call vote of all committee members present.

**Program Discussion**

**DJ:**

The committee reviewed the quotes provided by Ms. Lamar for DJ, sound and emcee services. Based on the quotes, the chair asked for a motion to use DJ Nitro2k for Sound, emcee and sound system. Ms. Jones made a motion to contract with DJ Nitro2k, Mr. Griffith seconded the motion that was then carried on by a voice vote. Chair Choute brought up that Councilman Brencis Smith has previously hosted the Caribbean Festival

in the City and would be a great person to also assist as emcee; the committee will reach out to him.

**Vendors:**

Chair Choute brought up to the committee the recommended increases in vendor fees. The new food vendor fees would be \$125, non-food vendor fees \$100, and will now have a new set-up fee for information only vendors of \$25. Chair asked for a motion to approve price increases as stated. Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the new fees; Mr. Griffith seconded the motion that was then carried out by a voice vote. Mr. Griffith informed the committee that a Save the date email was sent to vendors on February 21, 2026, and that he has received many vendor interest emails.

**Sponsors:**

Based on last year's numbers, Chair Choute projects the committee will receive about \$1500 from sponsors and \$500 in fundraising.

**Fundraisers:**

Chair Choute asked members to make a list of potential fundraising locations and present this during the next meeting.

**Program:**

Chair Choute briefly discussed the program, recommending the cutting down of performances and speakers for this year's event, however there will be further discussion on this in the next meeting.

**Volunteers:**

Carreen from Volunteer Laurel has reached out to the committee about having volunteers and is already actively reaching out to her volunteer database for potential volunteers to assist the day of the event.

Additionally, Ms. Morales requested to have the budget approved so she can complete the BAPS form. Chair Choute requested a motion to approve total expenditure budget based on last year's expenses of a total of \$5,000. Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the budget; Mr. Griffith seconded the motion that was then carried out by a voice vote.

**T-Shirts Design and Cost**

Chair Choute asked Ms. Lamar if she could reach out and request bids from T-Shirt vendors, for 150 to 200 T shirts. Ms. Lamar agreed and will provide an update during the next meeting.

**Open Forum**

Ms. Lamar asked if the committee had time to review the revised vendor form, which she completed and sent out. The Committee stated it is good and needs no additional changes. Ms. Lamar noted that she included a blank space to add the link to

Prince George's County website where food vendors could get a one-day permit. Ms. Morales will add the link to the County's permit registration website on the vendor form.

Ms. Lamar asked if the Committee members had knowledge of the number of vendors the new space could hold or have calculated the number of booths we could have, as there is a portion on the vendor form indicating the purchase of additional space as needed. Chair Choute indicated she has the layout for the park but would drive around Emancipation Park to calculate the spaces and would inform the committee during the next meeting. For the time being, this can be omitted from the form. The information could be provided to vendors when spaces are assigned. Ms. Lamar asked Ms. Morales to request approval from the City to use the vendor form, as she would like to get these out to vendors to begin registering for the event as soon as possible, she does not want to lose the momentum from all the vendors that have shown interest.

Additionally, Ms. Lamar asked if once the form is approved, if the Committee could post a link to the Vendor form on the City website. Once the vendor form is approved, Ms. Morales agreed to edit the form so it is typable and will upload the link to the City's Juneteenth Website.

Ms. Morales asked Chair Choute for an update on the City forms, as the Clerk's Office has not received them yet. Chair Choute indicated she is still in the process of completing the forms, but that the Mayor has been updated. Ms. Morales reminded Chair Choute that these need to be completed as soon as possible, in case we need additional power connections and generators from Department of Public Works for the DJ and sounds systems as the park only has one power outlet, and if we plan on requesting the closure of 8<sup>th</sup> street.

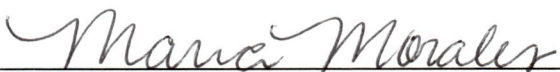
There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

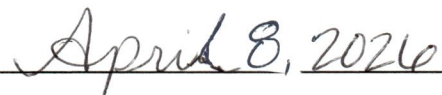
Respectfully submitted by Maria Morales for Secretary Troy Griffith.

April 2, 2026

Approved:

Date:

  
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Maria Morales  
Administrative Assistant II

**Juneteenth Planning Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday March 11, 2026, 6:00pm**  
**Virtual - Zoom**

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Meeting Ended: 6:55pm

Members of the Public: 0

Attendance:

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
 William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

1. Call to Order:

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
 William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

2. Approval of January 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
 William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

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### 3. Adoption of March Agenda

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young
- William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

### 4. Program Discussion –

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young
- William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

→ attended @ 4:20 PM

- DJ Will set budget based on DJ pricing at next meeting - DJ Nitro 2K *voted for*
- Emcee Will have a list sent of potential MC's Next meeting we can vote on the person. *Tesa 1st Troy 2nd everyone else*
- Vendors New fees for vendors Food \$125 Non Food \$100 Info only \$25 Tesa gave 1st motion Troy Second *everyones aye.*
- Sponsors Will project \$1500 from sponsors and \$500 fundraising based on last year numbers.
- Fundraisers Group will make list of potential fundraising locations.
- Program Not discussed much, Ms. Choute brought up cutting down performance time. To continue discussing.
- Volunteers Coreen reached out to committee and is already actively reaching to her database.

+ Set budget: Based on last yr. numbers set total budget to \$5k Tesa made motion, Troy 2nd, everyone said aye. Maria to complete BAPS form, submit vendor form to Sara.

5. T-shirts (Design, Cost and Amount)

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute
- Angie O'Neal
- Joyce Awuro
- Troy Griffith
- Tawana LaMar
- Kia Young
- William Chase
- Veronica Martin
- Artesa Jones
- Yolanda Pearson
- Councilman Jeffrey Mills

150-200 Tshirts Tawana to get RFQ's

6. Open Forum

Vendor Form is complete. Maria will submit for approval, Committee wants to begin registration ASAP Don't want to lose momentum with vendors that have reached out. Maria asked chair choute about city forms, indicating she is still working on it, but has maintained Mayor updated. Maria to add link to vendor form for online permit registration.