



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday June 28, 2022**

The meeting began at 5:09 p.m. via hybrid meeting with in-person/zoom.

**Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted):** Jess Davis, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Malik McCluskey, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

**Staff:** Michael Shermis **Associates and Guests:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from May 31, 2022 were reviewed and approved as written by voice consent.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael said that the newsletter will go out every other month until we have more material to include. The commission has a vacancy open to any interested candidate, application will be reviewed by City Council.

**Old Business:**

- A. Next Year's Speaker:** Michael shared that there is a hold on the contract as the proposed speaker, Park Cannon, has asked that a security plan be in place for her visit before any agreement is made. Scott Oldham, Deputy Police Chief responded to the inquiry that it shouldn't be an issue, that the BPD CIRT will be ready to respond to any threats, and they have provided support to the Secret Service, Diplomatic Security, Dalai Lama, and more over the years. Now Michael will respond to the speaker's bureau to ask if this is enough or if more specifics need to be outlined prior to contract signing. He said we are now looking to mid-July before the contract is ready to go out. Since she is an elected official, the Mayor had to send the official invitation to speak. Park indicated she was willing to add on other opportunities for community engagement but nothing has been confirmed. Gloria is working with IU's planning committee and said that there would likely be opportunities to work with IU student groups.
- B. Curriculum:** Jess suggested that we focus next year not on convincing MCCSC to accept the curriculum as previously discussed, but instead to work with other independent schools who are already interested. This would allow us to spend the year practicing and getting feedback, as well as give volunteers the chance to practice since so few were able to last year. Next year we will also be more diligent about immediately getting survey/feedback responses because the schools who did have presentations in 2022 did not respond with feedback. With more testimonials and positive feedback MCCSC may be more interested in the future. Gloria suggested we could also work with other youth-serving organizations like Banneker, Boys and Girls Club, The Rise, where they may not have as much access to these types of educational experiences and would be more open to visiting presenters.

**New Business:**

- A. Additional Commission Events:** Gloria opened the floor to brainstorming other ways to be involved in the community, through future events and activities. We discussed past

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activities (April 4 Commemoration, book discussion, documentary showing) and discussed potential ideas for the year(s) ahead. Ideas included:

- Partnering with the Buskirk Chumley on their Centennial, with a focus on the recognition of Black presence in theater. On this idea, James noted that many influential figures of music, movies, and the arts were involved in the movement alongside MLK, so the idea expanded to potentially presenting a film, offering a panel discussion with local expert in the art/activism crossover, or creating a theme of “arts and activism” that could be expanded throughout a month in the fall in many different artistic venues, hosted by many different organizations.
- We discussed that an in-person event may draw more of a crowd this fall than virtual.
- There was a lot of interest in exploring an Underground Railroad Tour of Bloomington, perhaps asking the Historical Society or Shatoyia Moss for help in presenting and/or researching this rich history. Jess noted that Shatoyia made an amazing presentation to the Montessori School on this subject. The idea was that we could offer a tour to 4-6 important sites and then meet at a centralized location for a de-brief.
- It was decided that we will continue this discussion in the July meeting, so it will be added to the agenda along with a 2023 Remembrance Event.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** None

**NAACP Update:** Dianne noted that the next general meeting will take place July 5, 6:30pm via zoom. Open to all.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said that they are planning for the Black Male Youth Summit. They are also planning the Million Fathers March for August when school starts, which usually takes place at Fairview. The commission also has vacancies.

**Announcements:**

- The Juneteenth Celebration was a lot of fun and well-attended. Gloria thanked everyone who was able to attend.
- Banneker is under new leadership and Gloria encouraged commissioners to stop by the center and say hi!

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

July 26, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

August 23, 5:00-6:00pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

September 27, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

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