



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

March 26, 2025

Meeting began at 6:04pm

Attendance:

Commission Members (in-person unless noted): Angel Thornsberry (Zoom), James Sanders, Aniah Fountain (Zoom), Julie Roberts, Gloria Howell, Latonya Wilson (Zoom)

Staff: Michelle Moss

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow

Approval of Minutes: Quorum was not reached.

Staff Liaison Report: No new information to report. Michelle is doing a tabling for the Volunteer Network on Saturday and will promote the Commission for our open vacancy.

Old Business:

1. Timing of MLK Annual event and prospect of King family keynote
 - a. We do not have the flexibility to shift the date of our MLK Annual event.
 - b. Possibility of collaborating with another commission and IU for a Black History Month event.
 - c. There was discussion around Bernice King. Maybe finding a historian who is connected? Or maybe a notable writer.
 - d. Dr. Traci Parker was brought up as a suggestion for a speaker: <https://traciparker.com/about/>
2. Remembrance Day action items:
 - a. Editorial for the newspaper-
 - i. Latonya is writing this piece. She will submit the finished piece to Michelle and commission no later than March 28th for review/input.
 - ii. Michelle will submit to the paper by Tuesday, April 1st for print in the Sunday, April 6th paper.
 - iii. Latonya will email it to everyone on the Commission for review and potential edits.
 - b. Submission of editorial to local newsletters
 - i. Commission will review/add/divide newsletter contact lists, and confirm when they will be sending to groups
 - ii. Michelle can send out to all of the links that Gloria sent to the Commission group.
 - c. Reading to children/Civil Rights activity
 - i. Wednesday April 2nd at 8:30 am reading at the Bloomington Montessori School. Michelle, Gloria, and Julie volunteered to attend.
 - ii. Michelle found several books and a book list that will be good to read from the MCPL.
 - d. Bring it On! Interview

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- i. Thank you to Gloria and Latonya for offering to participate in an interview, and thank you, Gloria for initiating the contact with Clarence to get the process started.
 - 1. The interview will happen on Sunday and will be broadcast on Monday. Clarence will send the link.
 - 2. Michelle will include the link in the Newsletter.
- ii. Video post on social media
 - 1. It appears that doing a post with the letter, or portions of the letter will be the focus of this push.
- e. The MLK Commission will be partnering with BLEMF and will be promoting their annual summer workshops and their walking tour. Michelle will be updating the MLK Commission page with the MLK Commission tour, and linking out to BLEMF events, and the current City African American History Walking Tour(which is currently being updated by Liz Mitchell and launching soon).
 - i. Commission is already in the information for the BLEMF summer workshops.
 - ii. All BLEMF activities are free of charge.
- f. MLK Newsletter/Remembrance Day content
 - i. MLK newsletter will be going out post-spring break with articles including links to walking tours, History Center exhibits, etc.

New Business:

- 1. Strategic planning/timeline for 2025 goals and program
 - a. Remembrance Day
 - i. See notes above in Old Business.
 - b. Speaker
 - i. Make final decisions for the speaker in the April meeting. Commissioners will bring suggestions to the April meeting.
 - ii. Michelle will send out the link to Speak Out Now speakers website/resource.
 - c. Tabling
 - i. Events that the Commission has historically tabled at:
 - 1. Juneteenth (around June 19th)
 - a. Gloria likes the idea of us volunteering and not necessarily at a table, felt that volunteer work was needed at the event.
 - 2. Bloomington Volunteer Network (around the last weekend of August)
 - 3. Black y Brown (mid-September)
 - 4. La Fiesta del Otoño (around September 20th)
 - 5. Others?
 - a. Pride
 - b. Farmers Market on Saturdays
 - d. Children friendly activities

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- i. Michelle encouraged Commissioners to think of family and children friendly activities for our tabling opportunities and bring it to the April meeting with pricing so we can come to a decision.
- ii. Latonya suggested a balloon release activity. Julie and James brought up the environmental impacts, and Aniah brought up the idea of biodegradable lanterns.
 - 1. Julie brought up the idea of sparklers.
 - 2. James brought up that we could do an activity close to dusk for the biggest impact.
- iii. Latonya suggested a color run activity without running, Michelle said that could be a good idea for something like Pride.
- e. One Community Curriculum
 - i. Michelle talked to MCPL and said they would be interested in doing something for the fall, would need to finalize by May.
- f. MLK Day on, and 40 Days of Peace volunteering
 - i. Angel and Michelle are interested in creating volunteering ops for commission.
 - ii. Generate interest at the Bloomington Volunteer Network (Around last weekend in August).
- g. Building MLK photo archives
 - i. Michelle would love to build a better set of photos for MLK, encouraged Commissioners to take pictures and send them to her to archive.
 - ii. James asked for a link to a Google Drive to add photos.
 - iii. Julie suggested that we could ask the IDS to come to events to take photos.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan provided some final thoughts.

NAACP Update: Julie stated that NAACP held elections yesterday and have newly elected officers! Julie is the new Treasurer, congrats Julie!

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said they had a meeting where they debriefed the Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow. Have a couple new members. Getting ready for presentation next Wednesday.

Announcements: Michelle said Be More Award nominations are closing soon, encouraging everyone to submit a nomination.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Apr. 23rd- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)

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- May 27th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- June 25th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)

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