



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

September 24, 2025

Meeting began at 6:00pm

Attendance:

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

Staff: Michelle Moss

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow

Introductions:

Approval of Minutes: August minutes were approved.

Staff Liaison Report:

1. Still waiting for the AACE contract to come back, it is stuck with IU Legal currently. Don't foresee any problems at this moment.

Old Business:

1. Must collect all Commissioner badges
2. MLK presenters, where are we at with the remaining asks
 - a. Gloria is going to reach out to Phil tomorrow about closing remarks.
 - b. Michelle would like to get the script for the event out soon to the presenters. She has to get the script approved in advance.
 - c. Brittany King is the MC. Latonya Wilson is going to do the introduction for Dr. Parker.
3. Follow up on Traci Parker and possible April visit
 - a. Michelle followed up with Dr. Parker about doing Remembrance week activities. She will be at IU in April (April 9th) so the timing is good, but her new book doesn't come out until 2029. Dr. Parker isn't opposed to doing something with the Commission in April.
 - b. Michelle asked the Commission to think about how we would like to engage with Dr. Parker in April.
 - c. We will need to come up with a title for the Celebration event.

New Business:

1. MLK Day On/40 Days of Peace/Be the Change Volunteer Challenge - Volunteer Committee - set up Oct/Nov/Dec meetings scheduled
 - a. Brittany and Angel are interested. Michelle is already getting information out about MLK Day On. Michelle is trying to get the word out to different local organizations and give the sign up links out to volunteers.

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City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk
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2. Remembrance Week Committee- Who is interested? /set up first meeting
 - a. Gloria and Julie are interested.
 - b. Michelle would like for the committee to plan a Zoom meeting.
3. Newsletter update
 - a. The city has decided that they don't want individual departments to send out individualized newsletters, but it is not currently decided where centralized newsletters will come from.
 - b. Michelle will be sending out newsletters until further notice.
 - c. Michelle has a liaison meeting tomorrow and will be discussing this topic further.
4. Legacy award
 - a. Michelle would like to get the nomination form out at the beginning of October and run it through end of November
 - b. Will need to revisit the verbiage for the award and we will need to discuss whether we want to add language about longevity
5. Memory Activism- Generational Meeting
 - a. Latonya proposed this idea, a meeting between African American youth and African American elders. Way to bring different demographics together. Latonya works with the Atkins LLC on campus, she feels this could be easily done with the connections that we have within the Commission.
 - i. Julie can bring this idea to the NAACP, especially the Youth chapter. Latonya will connect with Julie to come to the next NAACP meeting.
 - ii. Gloria suggested that Latonya draft and send the Commission a proposal that can be sent to the NAACP to co-sponsor possibly. Idea to do it in the spring around remembrance time. The Black Student Union could potentially co-host as well.
 - iii. Idea to use the Boys and Girls club as a location to host the event, or Bannaker, or a church.
 - iv. James brought up that the kind of discussion would influence the location choice.
 - v. Gloria offered to connect Latonya to Maria at the NAACP to plan this further.
6. Winter Wonderland
 - a. Can do a beaded activity during the event.
 - b. James is on the planning committee and will keep the Commission informed on updates about this event.
7. Donations of warm clothes and accessories as part of MLK Day On
 - a. Thought to use IU Crimson Cupboard as a partner
 - b. Julie suggested the Boys and Girls club
 - c. Aniah found a few resources such as Healing Hands and Foster Closet
 - d. James suggested we find an organization that has a specific need to work with
 - e. Gloria said that Neal Marshall has a program that we could work with
 - f. Encourage participants to donate to specific places as opposed to us collecting donations

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):

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NAACP Update: Working on a grant and trying to put together partners to help write it. NAACP Freedom Fund banquet is November 1st at Ivy Tech. Gloria is getting the Presidents Award! Tickets will be available online soon.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: Had Black Male Youth Summit in September, it went really well. Had a few motivational speakers that all brought messages related to the theme “Standing on business”. Had food, trivia, and prizes.

Announcements:

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 22nd- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- November 19th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- December 10th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)

MLK Commissioners

Aniah Fountain- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Gloria Howell- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Brittany King- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027

Julie Roberts- Appointed By: NAACP | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027

James Sanders- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Angel Thornsby- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Latonya Wilson- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027