



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

October 22nd, 2025

Meeting began at 6:04pm

Attendance:

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

Staff: Michelle Moss

Associates and Guests:

Introductions:

Approval of Minutes: We did not reach quorum.

Staff Liaison Report:

1. Current account balance is at \$5,194. Good considering we have lost our biggest sponsor.
2. Started the sponsorship letter campaign.

Old Business:

1. MLK Event presenter/performer updates
 - a. Phillip Amerson has agreed to do the closing remarks. Powerpoint and order of the program will start coming soon. Michelle encouraged Latonya and Brittany to review and make revisions as needed.
 - b. Michelle checked in with Marissa P. about getting a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation.
2. Additional thoughts of April with Dr. Parker/Remembrance Week Committee
 - a. Do we still want to try to arrange something with Dr. Parker for April? Gloria expressed we could host something on that Thursday morning, something low stakes but impactful. Perhaps a breakfast to spark conversation. The Symposium is open to anyone and is about the soul era, very music focused. Michelle suggested she could reach out to Dr. Parker to keep us in mind as we plan for Remembrance Week.
3. Follow up on Winter Wonderland
 - a. Michelle reached out to Erin, and Erin wants the MLK Commission to be part of it. We had 2 thoughts, we could provide an activity or could run one of the Parks and Rec activities.
 - i. We decided to go with one of the pre-made activities from Parks and Rec.
4. Follow up on MLK Day On and 40 Days of Peace committee
 - a. Michelle said that an email is going to go out to partner organizations for participation in MLK Day On and 40 Days of Peace. Partnership with social media momentum, focused on community.

New Business:

1. Newsletter/Legacy Award update

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City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk
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- a. Michelle has Legacy Award nominations out. Our newsletter has been cut, so she will be sending out things in an email press release instead. That is currently pending.
2. Highlighting unsung Black women at the MLK Event
 - a. Brittany brought up how we might go about this. Gloria said it could be incorporated into Brittany's remarks during the program and in a possible display case. We could especially highlight women local to Bloomington. James said that we could do clips of highlights of women in Bloomington. We could project these clips before the event. Gloria said for next meeting, think about categories that we could highlight. James said we could highlight recent award winners.
 - b. Latonya suggested that we could do a symbolic gesture during the event such as giving flowers. Julie suggested that we could give a short handout during the event with blurbs about women that people might have not heard about before as an educational tool.
 - c. Gloria asked for folks to send their ideas in an email before our next meeting.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): There were no non-MLK Commissioners.

NAACP Update: State conference is this weekend in Fort Wayne. Freedom Fund banquet is November 1st. There is still time to get a ticket for the dinner through October 29th! Dr. Gloria Howell is the Presidents award winner this year. Still waiting to hear back on whether they got one of the NAACP National Enhancement grants. Latonya came to a monthly breakfast meeting with President Sims to talk about bringing community members together to have intentional dialogue.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: Winter Wonderland in December, in the planning phases currently. Julie came and helped last year with some of the activities. Looking at gifts for the children who will be in attendance, if anyone wants to help with that and generate an Amazon list James is open to assistance, have it to him by next meeting. There is a new Commissioner, he will report the name during the next meeting.

Announcements:

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 19th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- December 10th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- Jan. 2026- TBA

MLK Commissioners

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

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

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

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