



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

**November 19, 2025**

Meeting began at 6:02pm

**Attendance:**

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

**Not Present:** Sharon Baker, Katie Bensberg

**Staff:** Aubrey Seader, Shatoyia Moss, Andrew Shannon

**Associates and Guests:**

**Introductions:** Hello to Aubrey and Shatoyia!

**Approval of Minutes:** We did not reach quorum.

**Staff Liaison Report:**

1. Board and Commission appreciation event happening on Friday November 21st from 5-7:30pm. Drop in at any time! An email from Aubrey was sent to the commission with more details.
2. MLK Accounts: still have some left over funds from last year. We have just over \$5,000, which is just over halfway what we need to do the MLK event. The cost of the event will come to just under \$10,000. Aubrey followed up with donors, and have gotten commitments from some of them. We have lost some of our donors, such as from IU and Ivy Tech. Also connecting with the NAACP and working on that.
  - a. Aubrey doesn't have contact information for a couple donors, if a commissioner is able to share that with Aubrey, please let her know.
  - b. If there are businesses/individuals interested in becoming a sponsor, please let Aubrey know. We have about \$3,000 we need to make up.
  - c. Julie is Treasurer for NAACP, and says they will be donating but does not have a dollar amount currently.
  - d. Aubrey will send a list of people that have already been contacted, as well as the figures for our financial status.

**Old Business:**

1. Review of MLK Birthday Celebration Event planning for interim liaison
  - a. Cementing how we'll highlight Women of the Movement at MLK event
    - i. As a first initiative, unsung women of the movement. We talked about doing some kind of video or something before the event. We also talked about doing something in the display case as

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well. Brittany mentioned that we talked about a Powerpoint, and that she has started a list of some women in the movement. The commission confirmed that we would focus on historical women for the presentation. Aubrey has some resources for historical women from Monroe county. Julie suggested having the list in some form of handout or program for attendees to reference after the event. Aubrey suggested a QR code.

1. For the Powerpoint, it would be more so of a backdrop before the event, and could be referenced in opening remarks.
    2. Brittany was thinking about if we had students in the community, they could sit in the audience and narrate the women referenced in the Powerpoint. Gloria said this is a great idea, but the event doesn't traditionally draw a lot of students. Aubrey said that the program is already pretty robust, so not the best for time.
  - ii. As a second initiative, Shatoyia suggested that to increase attendance at the event, to have a list of local women that we could purchase a lapel pin for and send an invitation to them, saying they will be recognized during the event. They would wear the pin at the event and they can keep it forever afterwards. Julie brought up the question of if there is enough time, Aubrey said we have about 8 weeks to work on this and thinks it is feasible. Gloria likes the idea of people getting something special. Aubrey will price the pins for us, she has \$200 factored towards those. We can cap how many pins we give out based on the price. The commission would choose who we give the pins to. Shatoyia said a good number to aim for could be 50 people.
  - iii. Latonya brought the idea to the table previously about giving people flowers at the event and it could be a photo opportunity. Aubrey said it would be great, but would need volunteers to do that and give flowers to specific people, we don't have funds to give a flower to every attendee. Aubrey brought up logistically, this would be challenging.
  - iv. Julie brought up that the pin could be some sort of flower, in homage to "giving people their flowers".
  - b. Review of the performers, and Brittany will be presenting as the MC. Latonya is introducing Phil. Aubrey sent Brittany and Latonya a copy of the script from 2025.
  - c. Dr. Ekeh will be introducing Dr. Parker.
  - d. James can see if the Commission on the Status of Black Males can garner presenters for the upcoming awards from the commission. James will need a couple weeks to get this going.
  - e. Aubrey is going to work on slides, pins, and order of program. The commission will need to work on the 2 lists, first the historical Black women in the movement (Latonya can support Brittany in making this list) and a list of local women to honor with the pins with contact information. Aubrey would love to have those names before the next meeting on December 10th. Shatoyia suggested we email the local women and ask if they can pick up the pins, or hand deliver them, to save on postage.
2. Review who is volunteering at Winter Wonderland
  3. Review Committees: MLK 40 Days of Peace Committee, Remembrance Week Committee
    - a. MLK 40 Days of Peace starts on MLK Day and goes for 40 days

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- b. Remembrance Week is in April

**New Business:**

1. Seat re-appointments
  - a. You must create a new account to re-apply
2. Review of 2025 script and potential updates for 2026
  - a. We discussed much of this in Old Business
3. Get Ready for Planning Meeting in February 2026
  - a. Did MLK Annual Report for 2024.
  - b. When we get back to business in February, Aubrey would like to take a look at the goals and review what worked, what didn't, and what we would like to change.
  - c. Aubrey also provided a list of MLK Important Dates for 2026. Aubrey would like for us to talk in February about what we would like to accomplish in the coming year.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** Andrew Shannon shared congratulations to Aubrey and the commission.

**NAACP Update:** The banquet was a success, raised a record amount of money! Jim Sims went to the state convention. NAACP will be sponsoring the MLK event. Dr. Gloria Howell received the Presidents Award!

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** Busy planning Winter Wonderland toy drive. December 6th from 12-3pm at the Banneker community center. The commission would be glad to have anyone that is able to assist, just let James know. Thank you to Brittany for sending the toy drive list.

**Announcements:** No announcements at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- December 10th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- Feb. 25th- 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

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**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

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