

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

This meeting will be held in the Allison Conference Room (Suite 225), City Hall, 401 N. Morton St) and may also be accessed via zoom at the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87885165070?pwd=tauuBRe8TpWez0beqKFW3hFaoReakT.1>

Meeting ID: 878 8516 5070

Passcode: 263131

Materials for this meeting can be found on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission's website, which is located at the following address:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/mlk>

Agenda

1. Introductions / Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes

A. [Document Link to March 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

3. Reports (if any)

A. Staff Liaison Report

- a. No change in our accounts since February's liaison report.
- b. James did a great job presenting to City Council and was able to answer all of their questions

B. Report on Freedom Schools Project 4/14 Callout Meeting

- a. Latonya and Julie attended. Julie Hardesty (NAACP) agreed to co-chair the committee, Maria Douglas is spearheading the coordination of the committee. Latonya connected us with IU Indy's Freedom School.
- b. Next meeting is on April 28.
- c. We need a core group of interested students to get started.
 - i. Places to look for students: BHSN, NMBCC, Project School, Montessori School, etc.
- d. NAACP wants to do a launching event in the last week of July before MCCSC High Schools start again.

- e. The MLK team and NAACP want to have an idea of what the Freedom Schools Project is doing before Juneteenth so we can start tabling and getting information out to the community about it.
 - f. Latonya says that the committee is trying to figure out what a Freedom School is, what the history of the Freedom Schools are, and what kind of “freedom” we are trying to obtain.
 - i. Latonya thinks that we can help, as a commission, with the moral and character development aspect of this Freedom Schools Project.
 - ii. Focusing on *6 Principles of Nonviolence* and creating a resource for implementing those values in life fits into Latonya’s vision.
 - g. Gloria reflected on the discussion of “Saturday Schools” and Freedom Schools at a recent conference she went to.
 - i. The National Council for Black Schools has funding for Freedom Schools. There is an IU AAADS faculty member who sits on this council.
- C. Report from NAACP and CSBM
- a. CSBM Report:
 - i. CSBM attempted to meet 2 weeks ago and didn’t have a quorum.
 - ii. CSBM’s Juneteenth will include a CSBM health initiative.
 - b. NAACP:
 - i. Lots of donations rolling in, health initiatives and education initiatives are ongoing.
 - ii. Probably going to be moving back to Second Baptist.
 - iii. President is going to a state meeting this weekend.
- D. Public Comment

4. Old Business

- A. Goals from March Meeting into Programs / Action Steps
 - a. Assign commissioners to projects
 - i. NAACP Freedom Schools Project support
 - 1. Latonya, Julie, and Brittany will support this project and work on the *6 Principles of Nonviolence* resource.
 - ii. Creating resources on 6 principles of nonviolence
 - 1. (see above)
 - iii. 6-Part Series of Principles of Nonviolence Events
 - 1. James and Gloria will work with Aubrey on the event planning for this series. Aubrey will provide possible event structures and partners for each event, and James and Gloria will give feedback.

- B. Making Statements/Sending Letters as a Commission
 - a. Review input from Jennifer Crossley (Deputy Clerk)
 - i. We were not able to get input from Clerk Crossley before this meeting, but we anticipate Aubrey will learn more in the upcoming Liaison Training. She will report back.

5. New Business

- 1. Support of Spring & Summer Community Partner Programming
 - a. SWAGGER involvement
 - i. Perhaps a chance to table for MLK and NAACP and talk about the Freedom Schools project.
 - b. Juneteenth involvement
 - c. Other May-August community events we want to support.
 - d. Anti-Racism Task Forces we want to support
 - i. First United Church
 - ii. Unitarian Universalist Church
 - iii. First Presbyterian Church
- 2. MLK 2026 Speaker Selection Process
 - a. Review timeline for Aubrey
 - i. We were not able to get to this because of the extended discussion about new business and committees. The commission agreed we need to start working on this for next time.
 - b. Commissioners are interested in focusing on the arts within the Civil Rights Movement for next year’s event.

6. Adjournment

Board Membership

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, and in compliance with Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
James Sanders	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Brittany King	Mayor	4/30/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Latonya Wilson	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Gloria Howell	Mayor	2/1/2024	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Julie Roberts	Monroe County NAACP	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Vacant	Mayor	-	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Vacant	Common Council	-	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028

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