Commission on the Status of Black Males Meeting Notes

Meeting: Commission on the Status of Black Males

Date: October 15, 2026

Commissioner Attendees(list out everyone in attendance): Dhakir Abdullah, James Sanders, Patrick Smith (in-person), Vivian Akinwekomi, Tyson Coe, Diana Opata (zoom)

City Staff Attendees: Program Specialist, Marissa Parr-Scott

Public Attendees: N/A

Notes

1. **Call to Order**
    a. [FILL IN]
2. **Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes**
    a. [FILL IN]

3. **Reports (if any)**
    A. Staff Liaison (Marissa)
        a. [FILL IN IF MISSED]
        b. Due to the November Commission meeting occurring on Veterans Day, we have to find a new date to meet
            i. Tuesday, November 10th has been set for the new date
                1. Dhakir, James, Patrick, and Tyson stated they could attend
                2. Diana will reach out
                3. There will likely be a different meeting room for this date
        c. Marissa relayed comments concerning the Black Male Youth Summit
            i. A reminder that the liaison is to be the primary point of contact between the commission and external contacts, to ensure that event logistics are handled appropriately
                1. In regard to the summit, nobody made city staff aware of the organ vendors in the atrium
            ii. Remain respectful when moving adults to the designated area during the summit. The space is for students, but it is important to remain inclusive and appreciative of parents when conveying this
            iii. Allowing more participation for MCCSC staff to be able to help direct and guide students

iv. Setting boundaries between students, MCCSC staff, and commissioners; commissioners should never be alone with students
v. It was suggested that we create a plan towards disruptive behavior, discuss how we plan to address challenging programs, and look at the overall structure of the summit and ensure we encourage meaningful participation
vi. Diana and James asked for more elaboration and specifics
vii. James suggested we table this conversation for the next meeting so Shatoya would be able to attend as to further explain and discuss the Summit
viii. Diana, Dhakir, and Patrick, verbally agreed with this

B. Public/Public Comment
    a. N/A

4. Old Business

a. N/A

5. New Business

1. Winter Wonderland, Saturday, December 12th from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
    a. Reaching out to the same Santa as last year
    b. Andre Arnold as the photographer for this year
    c. Layla, Safe & City intern, as well as 2 students, are beginning to plan activities and crafts for the event
    d. Generally, we set up the night before, arriving at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
    e. NMBCC will be hosting a toy drive; NAACP will be hosting a toy drive at their Freedom Fund Banquet
    f. Call time for the event will be an hour to an hour and a half before it starts
    g. Santa is being reached out to
2. October 23rd, Dhakir and James are going to Bloomington North
3. Many of our terms are ending on January 31st; confirming whether or not commissioners are renewing their terms

6. Adjournment

a. Patrick Smith motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.
    i. Dhakir Abdullah seconded the motion

Action Items