



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

**Tuesday October 26, 2021**

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom call

**Commission Members:** Jess Davis, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Malik McCluskey, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

**Associates and Guests:** Dan Enslow

**Staff:** Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioners reviewed the previous meeting minutes via email. Jess made a motion to approve the minutes from September, Malik seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael noted that he will keep the Commissioners updated regarding virtual vs in-person meetings once a determination is made for the end or continuation of the Emergency Order.

**Old Business:**

- A. MLK Program (Dance and Fairview):** Michael shared the IU Jacobs School is interested in doing another original dance piece for the event. He said that this was a popular portion of the program last year and asked for feedback from the Commissioners. He assumes we would also want the AACE to perform. This year he would expect the entertainment cost to be near \$1,000 for both. Lily said she enjoyed the dance because it was one of the only pieces that is visual and not spoken word. James agreed that he found the performance to be a positive asset to the program. Michael will reach out to the AACE and the Jacobs School to inquire of pricing so we can officially decide next meeting. Michael said that Fairview is unfortunately unable to participate this year, a disappointment because they have been so popular in the past. They are unavailable due to the ongoing pandemic but expressed interest in 2023! Finally, Michael mentioned that we need to decide on catering for the event, and unfortunately the previously caterer is no longer in business. He suggested Lee Rosser, an African American chef who moved to Bloomington in the past year and does a lot of cooking presentations around town. Michael spoke to him and he's interested but needs to become a city-approved vendor, estimate and proposal pending.
- B. MLK 2022 Fund Development:** Michael said that donations are starting to come in, including \$2000 from IU. He will reach out to IU soon to inquire what their programming plans are for 2022. Gloria said that she thinks IU will be hosting a hybrid social justice conference but probably not the annual breakfast. She will share an update next month. We received a \$500 commitment from IU Credit Union and \$250 from Bloomington Human Rights Commission, and a few other local businesses and individuals are in the works. James said that he needs to work with Michael for other letters he would like to send.
- C. Curriculum Development:** Jess shared the curriculum she created over email, complete with grade level lessons for Grades 1-6 students. She and Michael have been in communication about creating a script and training video for volunteers to use when delivering the lesson plans. The hope is that volunteers will be trained this year and will stay involved for future years. Jess also said she applied for a grant to help supply the materials and books for the curriculum to keep costs at a minimum for the commission. While the bones of each lesson are created, she is still working on multi-sensory activities for each grade level and is seeking resources, like children's books that have

**City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission**

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · [www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk)

Hrs: 8am-5pm MON-FRI · ph. 812-349-3471 · fax 812-349-3483 · [mlk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mlk@bloomington.in.gov)



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

reputable primary sources. Gloria recommended that one of the lessons for older children include lesser known historic figures in the Civil Rights Movement, and this is an area that Jess is especially interested in finding more resources to include. Jess is also finalizing plans for a training video and asked if Gloria would be willing to co-lead the training video. Michelle Moss will help as the videographer. In addition, she noted that research shows that the best delivery model for these lessons would be a pair of volunteers, with one of the presenters being Black. This double-volunteer method is best in case one volunteer doesn't show up but is also ideal for targeting questions, filtering out and addressing inappropriate questions, and is just a good representation of the materials. James asked how the Commission could assist in the next month, and Jess said that in addition to resources (children's books especially), she is seeking honest feedback to ensure that each lesson covers what we want to cover in the best way possible. James and others said they are impressed with the lessons and the detail of a different activity for each grade level. Jess noted that for the younger kids, the lessons are more concrete (creating something) and positive (fairness), while the older grades move into more abstract (discussions) and challenging topics/big ideas. Gloria also thanked Jess for her time and attention to creating this curriculum and said we should all be thinking of how we can help recruit and train effective volunteers. She mentioned several service organizations that might be a good fit and asked Michael to create a working document where we can contribute ideas. Michael said his next step is to reach out to the schools and gauge interest, so that we know exactly how many volunteers we will need. Then he will send a survey to recruit the volunteer presenters. This is something commission members could send out to their contacts. Jess and Michael both agreed that they would like to find an MCCSC classroom to do a practice session, so that they can discover unanticipated factors. Michael will reach out to the school system. His goal is to have school requests by Nov. 30 and a volunteer group mostly set before the December winter break. James expressed interest in taking part with the presentations and any other way he could be of help.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** None.

**NAACP Update:** Dianne said that the next meeting will be on Zoom, November 2 at 6:30. They had originally planned to have a virtual banquet this month but that has been cancelled. They now hope to hold a live banquet in April.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said that they are planning the Black Male Youth Summit for the spring and are also working on an upcoming clothing drive for warm winter clothing, for children at Fairview Elementary. They are looking for at least one organization to partner with.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

November 23, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

December date TBD, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

January 25, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

**City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission**

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · [www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk)

Hrs: 8am-5pm MON-FRI · ph. 812-349-3471 · fax 812-349-3483 · [mlk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mlk@bloomington.in.gov)