



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

Tuesday February 22, 2022

The meeting began at 5:07 p.m. via Zoom call, no quorum until 5:45pm.

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

Staff: Michael Shermis

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow

Approval of Minutes: James moved to approve the minutes from January 2022, Dianne seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report:

- A. **Celebration Finances Updated:** Michael shared that finances stand at \$3,391.82 after all donations and expenses, a larger than usual balance. This money can potentially be used for any Commission activities throughout the year.
- B. **May Meeting Date Switch:** Michael said that he will not be available at the May meeting so we have two options: to ask another colleague for CFRD to act as staff liaison or move it to May 31st, the day after Memorial Day. Michael will survey the remaining commission members, those present had no preference.

Old Business:

- A. **Curriculum Implementation Extension:** Typically all MLK service projects and presentations have been done before or within the 40 Days of Peace (Jan/Feb). The Project School is requesting their presentations to be rescheduled until after Spring Break. Jess said that moving forward the 40 Days of Peace is a concise frame for future planning, but this year we could make exceptions since they had to reschedule due to Covid. Lily agreed and said that the 40 days would also provide a shorter period of time for volunteers to stay familiar with the curriculum. Michael has received more interest from area private schools, so next year we can expand the program. MCCSC declined scheduling any presentations with the curriculum this year, after requesting verbatim lesson plans, a panel review, and a round of revisions. Now that we had several successful efforts at other schools, it was suggested to go back and show them a video of what the class would be. The newer, revised lesson plans may appeal more to MCCSC and Jess suggested trying again by sharing the new curriculum and any positive feedback received. All agreed that we should not create an alternate, less impactful lesson plan just to try to appease the political climate MCCSC is addressing. Before this political climate, MCCSC participated much more.

New Business:

- A. **NAACP Banquet Souvenir Ad:** Dianne shared that in 2019 the commission bought a ½ page ad and hoped we would up the support to a full page in 2022. She moved to purchase a \$160 full-page ad for the Freedom Fund Banquet. Lily seconded. All approved. James

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suggested the ad include a message of support for the NAACP work since we don't have any events coming up.

- B. **Next Year's Speaker:** Michael reminded the group that the earlier we start, the better price we can get, the better rate of locking in the speaker you want, and so the sooner the better on choosing the next speaker. He will send out the remaining options from last year, will include Dan's suggestion (below), and will research any other ideas that commission members have. Michael said that Speak Out Now (speaker's bureau) he has been working with for the two years prior to this year has a lot of great speakers, is great with sharing options within our price range (\$4,000-6,000), is easy to work with, and he will reach out to them to find out if they have any new suggestions. Commissioners and community members who have ideas can send them to Michael.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan Enslow was present and asked if we were scheduling an upcoming Remembrance Event. Michael said Gloria has an idea for an event but she wasn't at the meeting to share. Dan then suggested we plan a fall event, either showing a film, watching a video followed by a panel discussion, or a community discussion around the topic of CRT. Dan also recommended Heather McGhee, author of "The Sum of Us" as a keynote speaker for next January.

NAACP Update: Dianne updated that NAACP members are going to attend a Cardinal Stage Play at the Waldron called "The Mountaintop" March 3-20, 50% capacity, vaccine required, pay what you can. Also, the Freedom Fund Banquet is April 2.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said that CSBM awarded the winners for the Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow and are still planning for upcoming programming like Million Father March and Youth Summit.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 22, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

April 26, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

May 24, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

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