



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

**Tuesday March 22, 2022**

The meeting began at 5:07 p.m. via Zoom and in-person.

**Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted):** Jess Davis, Gloria Howell (Zoom), Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

**Staff:** Michael Shermis

**Associates and Guests:** none

**Approval of Minutes:** Jess moved to approve the minutes from February 2022, Dianne seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael's update acknowledged that this is the first hybrid meeting of the year and reminded us that all voting must be via rollcall when a meeting is hybrid.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

A. **Remembrance Day:** Gloria shared that this year's Remembrance Day Event (virtual) will be April 7 at 6 p.m. and is a collaboration with Monroe County Branch NAACP and Morgenstern's Bookstore. It will include discussion of books that inspired MLK and community discussion. There will be a guided discussion on *Jesus and the Disinherited* and then attendees will split into breakout rooms for topical conversation. Jess and James will represent the MLK Commission as conversation leaders. The proceeds from book sales will go toward Boys and Girls Club Crestmont. Books are on sale at Morgenstern's and online registration is open. Jess asked if breakout rooms will be advertised in advance so people can attend the groups based on interest. Michael suggested listing rooms by topic not leader. Michael will send out a second email to all registered participants with the breakout room topics and 2-3 sentence blurbs so they can choose in advance. We discussed keeping the breakout rooms respectful, asking attendees to turn on video so it feels more like a face to face discussion, and whether the leaders should stay politically neutral.

B. **Curriculum Implementation 2023 Timeline:** Michael shared that the Project School officially has to cancel the presentations, but has already confirmed their interest for next year. Other interested schools didn't pan out for this winter. Michael would like to reach out to all of the interested volunteers and reiterate that we will be using this program again next year and will be reaching out early to get them on board. We do not have enough white volunteers to ensure a white volunteer and a Black volunteer in every room. Jess suggested talking to the schools in mid-September via Google form, and then generating volunteers in October. Jess offered to put together a signup sheet (online) where volunteers sign up for specific grades, dates, schools to streamline the placement process. In November/December training (or re-training) and January begin presentations. Jess and Michael are still working on

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formalizing the feedback from the presentations so that it can be used to market the programs next year.

- C. **Next Year's Speaker:** Michael sent out a list of potential speakers within our budget range and asked that Commissioners guide him in the next couple months on who he should reach out to pursue cost, availability, and interest. Jess liked Wisdom O. Cole to bring older and younger activists together, second choice Ericka Huggins because the Black Panther Movement isn't something we've covered before. Gloria suggested Ericka Huggins and Park Cannon. Others agreed with these recommendations. NAACP tried to get Cole to keynote at the Freedom Fund Banquet and found him difficult to reach.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** none

**NAACP Update:** Dianne shared that the Freedom Fund Banquet will be April 2 at 6 p.m. Tickets are sold out. Gloria will be delivering the keynote address, and the theme is "Always Moving Forward."

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James shared that they are gearing up for Black Male Youth Summit April 14. Gloria suggested we find a way to partner with other commissions like the CSBM in a future event.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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

May 31, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD (notice, 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month instead of 4<sup>th</sup>)

June 28, 5:00-6:00 pm, location TBD

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