



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

Tuesday April 26, 2022

The meeting began at 5:04 p.m. via hybrid meeting with in-person/zoom.

Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted): Jess Davis, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Malik McCluskey (via zoom, joined 5:35pm), Dianne Shewmaker

Staff: Michael Shermis

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from March 2022 were reviewed and approved as written by voice consent.

Staff Liaison Report: None, see updates below

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. **Remembrance Day Event Debrief:** Discussed the remembrance event (book conversation/speech small group discussions), commissioners shared their experiences and thoughts that it would be a great event to repeat. It was a partnership with NAACP, Morgenstern Bookstore, and MLK Commission. Gloria shared that Morgenstern was excited to partner for future events.
- B. **Future of Policing Task Force:** Malik has been a part of this task force and shared an update. There was a public forum last week, one of several small group activities hosted. There were about 10 participants, a cross section of residents including some from the Crestmont community where there were several shooting incidents in the past year. At this stage the task force is working on fact finding and community outreach. They want to make sure to move forward with informed discussion and accountability to having as much community input as possible. They would like community input from all different neighborhoods in the county. There has been recent concern about gun violence and how to better address this going into the summertime. There are questions about enforcement but also responsiveness so that when residents have concerns they are addressed in a timely manner, not after a problem has already occurred, and that this responsiveness is equitable in all neighborhoods.
- C. **Next Year's Speaker:** Michael received rates and availability for 2 of the 3 speakers discussed last month. Wisdom O. Cole is interested in talking with us but did not send details yet. By the next meeting we will have prices and availability for all 3 (Cole, tbd. Park Cannon: \$4,000, from Georgia. Ericka Huggins: \$6,000, from San Francisco).

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan spoke about the importance of addressing the Ukraine situation, particularly noting the impact on world food availability due to Ukraine's importance for wheat production. He encouraged the commission to take action.

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

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Gloria noted that MLK was a global thinker who focused on global-local connections of important world events. Malik noted MLK's opposition of the Vietnam War and how that overlaps with what is happening today. Gloria suggested if we have another community discussion in the fall this could be a direction we look into. Dan suggested partnering with other groups in town who are focused on these types of conversations.

NAACP Update: Dianne shared that the Freedom Fund Banquet sold out this year and it went well. The general meeting is always the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., on zoom. The links are available on the website.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: No update

Announcements:

- Gloria noted that she reached out to someone she knows about the vacant seat on the Commission and encouraged others to check within their networks for good candidates.
- African American Choral Ensemble Spring Concert is Saturday April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ruth N Hall Theater. Tickets are available online.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 31, 5:00-6:00 p.m., location McCloskey (notice, 5th Tuesday of the month instead of 4th) and Zoom

June 28, 5:00-6:00 p.m., location McCloskey and Zoom

July 26, 5:00-6:00 p.m., location McCloskey and Zoom