



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

**Tuesday May 31, 2022**

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. via hybrid meeting with in-person/zoom.

**Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted):** Jess Davis, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Malik McCluskey, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker **Staff:** Michael Shermis  
**Associates and Guests:** Dan Enslow (zoom)

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from April 26, 2022, were reviewed and approved as written by voice consent.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael noted that the Mandela Fellows Program is back in Bloomington this summer (24 young scholars from Africa come for 6 weeks to travel and work with Bloomington/IU) and Michael is hosting an event for them. He also shared that the Bloomington Human Rights Commission is hosting a trash pickup near Banneker Center on Saturday June 4, from 10am-12pm, reserve a slot @ [human.rights@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:human.rights@bloomington.in.gov) Finally, he shared that Bloomington Housing Authority is hosting a Community Summer Night Out block party on Saturday June 25, 3-6pm. Located at BHA in Crestmont and commissioners are asked to staff/table the event. RSVP by Friday June 10, email Michael if interested.

**Old Business:**

**A. Next Year's Speaker:** Michael shared that we can choose between any of the 3 selected speakers, all are interested and available (Wisdom O. Cole (youth focus, \$2,500), Park Cannon (lgbtq+ /human rights focus, \$4,000), Ericka Huggins (focus tbd, \$6,000). Cole is scheduling independently while Cannon and Huggins are through a speakers bureau we have worked successfully with before. Gloria spoke about our keynote history, which includes a diverse demographic of speakers in age, gender, and area of focus with a recent trend of young up and comers. We haven't had anyone with an LGBTQ+ focus in 8 years. The commission discussed their thoughts about the different speakers and the audiences they may draw in. James made a motion to vote on the speaker for the 2022 event, Lily seconded. Approved by voice consent.

Roll Call Vote to determine a keynote speaker for 2023 (All shared first and second choice):

Dianne: Cole, Huggins

Malik: Cannon, Huggins

Jess: Cannon, Cole

James: Cannon, Cole

Gloria: Cannon, Cole

Lily: Cole, Cannon

After tallying votes, Park Cannon received the most first choice votes and Michael will reach out to her this week.

After the vote, Gloria noted that just because another candidate did not win the vote for 2023 keynote speaker, it is helpful to have a backup in case things fall through in contracting. She

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also reminded that we have other opportunities for events (live or online) or speaking opportunities that may include the other choices. Lily suggested that Wisdom O. Cole could come as a potential partnership with NAACP, Commission on the Status of Black Males, or other local groups. Jess noted it would be good to bring Cole with a long leadup so we can really work to energize local youth, and Lily said youth might prefer a targeted event without all of the fanfare of the MLK Birthday Celebration. Michael said that if he were to come for a Remembrance Day event or even an outdoor fall event (2023), planning early would be important. We discussed the option of a youth-focused event at The Mill or outdoors at Switchyard Park.

**New Business:** None

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

**NAACP Update:** Dianne noted that the exec council meets today and the next general meeting will take place June 7.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said that they are planning for the Male Youth Summit, hoping to take it into the High Schools this fall.

**Announcements:**

Gloria announced that the official Celebration of Juneteenth is Saturday June 18 from 2-7pm at Switchyard Park. It will be a partnership between Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center and City of Bloomington. There will be food by Black vendors, games for kids, rides via shuttle from campus, and there is a website for volunteer, sponsorship, and donation opportunities. There are also opportunities for Black businesses to set up tables. It is also National Lemonade Day so there will be several tables set up for that. Malik suggested we table the event or share print materials, James suggested we attend less formally, introducing the commission as part of conversations with other guests. Gloria suggested people could table at Umoja Day at IU in the fall, to be more involved with the students on campus.

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

**Upcoming Meetings:**

June 28, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

July 26, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

August 23, 5:00-6:00pm, McCloskey Room and Zoom

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