

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 13, 2023

5:00-6:00 pm, in the Kelly Conference Room

City of Bloomington, 401 N Morton Street, Bloomington, IN, 47404

Commission Members (in-person): Imani Chambers, Gloria Howell, James Sanders, Da'Ja'Nay Askew

Staff: Marissa Parr-Scott (filling in for Michelle Moss), Aubrey Seader

Associates and Guests: Dave Enslow (virtual)

Approval of Minutes: The commission members moved to table the approval of minutes until the next meeting.

Staff Liaison Report: Michelle is out sick, and did not leave a Staff Liaison Report. News related to the upcoming MLK Jr. Day Event includes that we have decided to go with Popkorn with a Twist for a snack prior to the event.

Old Business: Tabling this until Michelle returns.

New Business: Tabling this until Michelle returns.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan Enslow commented that we are seeing a “bubbling of different polarized opinions in the US.” He said that it would be great to have a couple of town halls to talk about how to create change within the community. He suggested a town hall in April and then again later in the fall (September). Commissioners thanked him for his comments.

NAACP Update: Imani shared that the NAACP is busy planning the annual Black Cabaret event. That's February 10th, 2024, on IU's Campus at Willkie Auditorium.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James shared that the Cultural Christmas (Winter Wonderland) event was held in collaboration with IU campus groups (Black Student Union, Black Grad Student Association, and some fraternities). Children who attended received toys and gifts. Some arts and crafts activities were offered, as well as food, and a hot chocolate station. There was a Santa, Mr. James Torry. The event went well, the debriefing meeting will happen next week, where CSBM will go over the event and lessons learned. 344 people attended.

Announcements:

- Nominations for 2024 Women's Achievement awards opens Friday. Women of the Year, Toby Strout Lifetime Achievement, Emerging Leader, and Woman of the Year.
- Nomination Form: <https://form.jotform.com/.../2024-womens-achievement-awards>
- More information: <https://bloomington.in.gov/news/2023/12/15/5822>

Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award – Recipient Selection

- Commission members and staff liaisons listed their choices for the award recipient in order of preference, and the votes were totaled.
- There was a tie between three recipients. The commissioners discussed the merits of each nominee and asked each person to vote again, between the top 3 selected, to break the tie.
- Sarah McCue, of the Community Kitchen of Monroe County, was unanimously selected as the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award Winner.

Misc. Comments

Commissioners suggested that we move the post-event dinner to the Sunday evening before MLK Day. Many of the commissioners do multiple events on the Monday of MLK Day and so are very tired by the end of the day. Aubrey said she'd look at times that restaurants are open on Sunday evenings. Commissioners also said they'd be open to a lunch ahead of the event.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 31, 2024, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room

February 28, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room