



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

**Wednesday November 29, 2023**

The meeting began at 5:05 pm

**Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted):** Jess Davis, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders  
**Staff:** Michelle Moss **Associates and Guests:** Debra Vance

**Approval of Minutes:** October minutes were not reviewed due to lack of quorum at the time.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michelle said that donations have been coming in (\$8,800 in sponsorships, with a grand total in the account \$11,000+). So far there has only been one nomination for the Legacy Award. Current deadline is Dec. 4, but could push it back to as late as the 11<sup>th</sup>. Gloria suggested utilizing past award winners to help get the word out.

**Old Business:**

- A. **Social Media:** Commissioners should share related activities/events with Michelle so that she can post.

**New Business:**

- A. **Sponsor Thank You Cards:** Michelle suggested that we sign thank you notes to sponsors during the next meeting.
- B. **Legacy Award:** The December meeting will include voting on the Legacy Award. We discussed the voting process, with preference of sending ranked choices/votes to Michelle before the meeting to be tallied in advance.
- C. **Commissioner Re-appointments 2024 (Gloria, James, Jessica):** Michelle said 3 commissioners are up for re-appointment. Jess is not seeking re-appointment, Gloria and James will seek re-appointment.
- D. **Recruiting New Commissioners:** There are open spaces on the commission, so current commissioners should encourage city residents who are good candidates to apply. James asked if other commissions are struggling to fill open spaces and Michelle confirmed that there are several others with open seats and having a difficult time filling.
- E. **Commissioner Roles for MLK Day Celebration:** Gloria and James agreed to be co-emcee for the event. Jess offered to help with serving treats at the start. There are several asks out for speaking roles, the closing, and other formal greetings. We discussed planning next year with more intention on asking a diverse representation for presenters.
- F. **Food/Concessions for Event:** We previously discussed using the official BCT concessions, but the timeframe is too short for them to open. Instead, Michelle reached out to PopKorn Kernels With a Twist to buy small bags that we can hand out. Commissioners who are available should arrive at 5:30 to guests. Gloria suggested asking local youth to be ushers, and she and Michelle will work together to find out if this is a possibility.
- G. **January Meeting:** We will meet in January. It may not be a full commission meeting but a zoom de-brief instead.

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

**NAACP Update:** Gloria shared that the holiday party is next Tuesday, December 5 and it is open to the public (6pm at the UU Church). Also, the Freedom Fund Banquet is planned for the first weekend in April.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James shared the CSBM is having a holiday event at Banneker on December 9, from 10-3. Gifts are being collected to give to children who attend (toys and books K-8<sup>th</sup>).

**Announcements:**

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

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · [www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk)  
Hrs: 8am-5pm MON-FRI · ph. 812-349-3471 · fax 812-349-3483 · [mlk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mlk@bloomington.in.gov)



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

- Lily will miss the December meeting, so someone else will need to take notes.
- Gloria said that Neal Marshall is hosting a Kwanza Celebration on December 5 at 6pm.
- We discussed looking at nonprofit wish lists to see how you can support our vibrant and vital support network during this time of year. Michelle said that organizations with a BVN page can update needs and lists through her.
- The event program needs to be finalized by Dec. 15 for printing purposes. Michelle asked if she should remove information about the curriculum, and all agreed that it could be cut or shortened. Lily suggested talking after the new year of partnering with the MCPL or asking if they would like to present the curriculum since we are limited now with the schools.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

December 13, 5:00-6:00pm, Kelley Room (#155)

January, TBD