



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

Wednesday August 28, 2024

The meeting began at 5:04 pm, no quorum

Commission Members (in-person unless noted): Aniah Fountain (zoom), Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Julie Roberts, Angel Thornsby (zoom) **Staff:** Michelle Moss **Associates and Guests:** Debra Vance

Introductions: None

Approval of Minutes: July minutes were not reviewed because quorum was not met.

Staff Liaison Report: Michelle updated that the speaker contract is still working through Legal. Keith Beauchamp has been added to the vetted contractor list and next steps are moving forward.

Old Business:

A. **Social Media/Newsletter Features:** Michelle said that any events or articles of interest could be shared with her to go into the next quarterly newsletter or could be promoted via social media if more applicable. Next newsletter may feature some info about our January event or voting. Gloria suggested pulling a from the NAACP newsletter, or come up with our own pop culture lists to share. Gloria will ask Charlie Nelms to write something about voting for the fall newsletter, Aniah will write about her expectations as a first time voter. Voting info would be due before the next meetings because voter registration deadline is October 7.

B. **Music/Entertainment for 2025 Celebration:**

Music and Entertainment: Gloria spoke with several musicians who we discussed last time bringing in as part of a community choir. She will continue to reach out to a few more and next steps are to meet and discuss what it would take and who will be involved. Today we discussed continuing to work in finding a soloist to open and perhaps close the program. Michelle spoke with Fairview's music director who said that while they are interested in participating, she would like to explore a different format than before as it was difficult to keep all of the children quiet so long backstage. We discussed options to keep some presence of young people in the program, whether Highland Park, Fairview, or even Montessori which has been a consistent supporter to the commission. Ideas included music (indoors at start of program, balcony, outdoors prior to program), oratory contest, artistic readings.

Keynote/Guests: Gloria suggested inviting Dr. Novotny Lawrence from the Black Film Archives IU to introduce our keynote speaker. Julie asked if there was any word on whether Sandra Chapman (*Girl in the Yellow Scarf*) would be available to attend, and all agreed that having her at the event in some capacity would be a good local tie-in for the theme. We discussed looking at the schedule for Sunday and whether the dinner with the keynote speaker would be better on Sunday evening or to keep it late Monday, after the event.

Format/Guests: We discussed keeping "remarks" from elected officials to a minimum, instead offering them along with city/county entities the opportunity to share a post or a slide that we can have on screen before the event. We are still looking into new suggestions for emcees for the event, particularly new voices in the community. We also discussed whether there might be a way to have a community screening of *Till* the weekend before the celebration.



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New Business:

- A. **2025 Day On/40 Days of Peace/Spring Programming:** All updates in Old Business (see above)
- B. **Reschedule Nov/Dec Meetings:** Michelle said that last year we only met once in November/December (first week of December) to finalize event details and vote on Legacy Award. We weren't able to vote due to lack of quorum but should consider December 4 or 11. Several preferred 12/4 but we will vote next time on which December date and whether or not to meet at all in November.
- C. **Legacy Awards (new nominees/marketing):** Michelle said that having a community choir might help with getting the word out about the award and garner more nominations. We will also have the materials and nomination forms ready a bit earlier this year.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Julie and Debra shared that Freedom Fund Banquet is September 14 (\$55 per person) at Ivy Tech.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: None

Announcements:

Friday Sept. 6, 4-6pm Neal-Marshall will partner with McCalla Gallery for an exhibit highlighting their shared histories.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 25, 5:00-6:00 pm, Kelly Conference Room (#155)

October 23, 5:00-6:00 pm, Kelly Conference Room (#155)

November/December TBD