



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

**Wednesday September 25, 2024**

The meeting began at 5:13 pm

**Attendance-**

**Commission Members (in-person unless noted):** Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Julie Roberts, James Sanders, Angel Thornsberry (zoom), Latonya Wilson

**Staff:** Michelle Moss

**Associates and Guests:** Dan Enslow (zoom), Debra Vance, Taylor Brown (Mayor's Office)

**Introductions:**

Commissioners and guests introduced as there were several new people in the room. Taylor Brown, from Legislative Affairs with the Mayor's Office attended the meeting as part of his new work with the city. Latonya Wilson is the newest Commissioner, Welcome!

**Approval of Minutes:**

July/August minutes reviewed. James moved to approve as written, Lily seconded. Approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:**

Michelle updated that the contract has been approved through the city and is now in Mr. Beauchamp's hands to sign and return. The BCT contract for use of facility is now moving through Controller's Office.

**Old Business:**

- A. **Social Media/Newsletter Features:** All materials that would fit within the newsletter should be sent to Michelle. The next newsletter will feature voting information and stories from first time and long-time voters. Newsletter recipients are a mix of old contacts and new, like past sponsorships, city employees, attendees who shared email addresses. Julie suggested including a callout for NAACP membership in a future newsletter.

**New Business:**

- A. **Community Choir; Call to Action:** Gloria shared a synopsis of the progress so far on the interfaith community choir. She met with several of the predominantly Black churches (Connected, Lighthouse, Bethel, Second Baptist, potentially City Church, UU Church) and additional musicians in the community to gauge interest in collaborating. There were 3-4 interested in taking on a leadership role (Terrence, Dietra, Michael) and all of the facilities offered up their spaces as rehearsal venues. They created monthly dates for rehearsals, a schedule for call-outs, and plan to

**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**

start small in numbers. Prior to the meeting, Gloria and Michelle met to discuss the potential to compensate those who are putting in the hours to organize this effort. Commissioners were in favor of paying the organizers and possibly instrumental musicians. We would likely need to secure additional sponsorships, potentially from the IU Arts and Humanities. Additional considerations would include, do we need to find/pay for risers, would we need to have additional audio setup beyond the typical BCT sound check, would this group continue to collaborate beyond the MLK Day Event with potential to grow. Right now the organizers plan to primarily recruit within their own musical communities, but in the future more outreach could be done to other faith communities. The group of organizers is aware that even though they are used to performing in the church setting, our event music needs to lean toward more generalized inspiration/unity themes, not exclusively religious to abide by laws at city sponsored events.

**Action items** moving forward include creating a form and flyer for call-outs, reaching out via churches or community boards. **Angel** will check if IU has risers we can use, **Gloria** will finalize the capacity for this year's choir and create a form for the call-out. **Julie** will work on revising the sponsorship letter, **James** will connect with Black Leaders of Tomorrow to see if they are interested in presenting some speakers or taking some other small speaking role.

We discussed the potential to pay each of the 3 primary organizers \$200 and musicians \$100 (up to 5 musicians). James moved to allocate \$200 for each of the organizers (\$600 total) and Julie seconded. Gloria asked if we should include more flexibility in that funding level. James amended the motion to allocate no more than \$800 for the 3 organizers of the community choir. All approved.

- B. **Sponsorship/Contact List:** Send ideas for new sponsors to Michelle, and review the spreadsheet with the sponsorship mailing list from previous years. If anyone has personal contacts they can be added or added with a personal note. The letter is to be sent by Oct. 4th.
- C. **Feedback on Sponsorship Letter:** Michelle shared a draft letter with request that commissioners cut it down to size with updated information for this year's event. She also asked for feedback about the sponsorship levels, particularly taking a look at some of the offers for what each sponsorship level will include. All will need to be run through the CFRD for final approval but commissioners should send sponsorship suggestions to Michelle by Oct. 2nd, so that the sponsorship levels are clear. Julie will edit the letter down from its current long form, and so any commissioners with thoughts on the letter should email those to Julie.
- D. **MLK Day Speakers, Emcee Updates:** Michelle suggested tapping Sandra Chapman to be the emcee since she is a journalist/tv personality and may be interested due to having a book/film to promote. **Gloria** will reach out to her, and we discussed that her inclusion would be another compelling reason for the IU Media School to sponsor. We will also need to find someone to share closing remarks.
- E. **Inclusion of Fairview/Highland Park Pre-Event Performance:** In previous meetings we discussed the possibility of the schoolchildren performing before the event in some capacity, but after discussion it was decided that it would be

**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**

difficult for them to be in the background, so it might be best to explain to the schools that this year we are forming a community choir and will revisit including the kids again next year.

- F. **Updates for Montessori School Oratory Contest:** Michelle reached out to Jess about whether Montessori would be interested in this type of program, she sent an email out to her teachers, but no one responded yet. Lily suggested asking the Black Leaders of Tomorrow to present speakers or take some other small speaking role, as this is a simple way to include youth that doesn't involve a lot of organization or asks from already busy people. James said he would look into this.
- G. **IU MLK Events Update:** No updates. Gloria is reaching out to IU to ask about showing *Till* at IU BFCA the Sunday night before the event (free parking) and as a potential sponsor.
- H. **Meeting Dates for November and December (12/4 or 12/11):** We need to cancel or move the meetings for November and December due to fall/winter holidays. After discussion of dates, Lily motioned to meet November 20 and December 11. James seconded. All approved.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):**

None

**NAACP Update:**

Julie shared that the Freedom Fund Banquet was a great success. Liz Mitchell won the Legacy Award.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:**

James shared that the Black Male Youth Summit was a success, with about 50 students from various MS/HS in Bloomington. A panel of experts spoke on Financial Literacy, College, Teen Life, and more. They are planning Winter Wonderland event at the Boys and Girls Club this December.

**Announcements:**

- Neil Marshall Center is having 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Homecoming (October 19) from 6:30-8:30.
- Alpha Phi Alpha is hosting a Pajama Jam, October 19 as part of their philanthropy programming.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

**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**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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

November 20, 5:00-6:00pm, Location TBD

December 11, 5:00-6:00pm, Location TBD

**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)