



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

Wednesday July 26 2017

The meeting began at 4:35pm

Commission Members: Nicole Griffin, David Hummons, Reggie Johnson, Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders

Associates: Dan Enslow

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: James made a motion to approve the June minutes, Reggie seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report:

A: Service Project Funding: Michael shared the news that there is currently no funding for service projects next year. Service for Peace sent an official notice to let us know there would be no grant funding for at least 2 years. Michael contacted Serve Indiana and they are not funding this year either. Community Foundation of Monroe County is also stopping the funding for MLK Day projects. Michael is working on finding a large community partner. He is discussing many formats in which a sponsorship could work and also a possibility for some level of matching funds from the City to support the community service projects. Our current budget figure is \$780.31, which is lower than normal at this time. We will need to start fundraising efforts soon to support our program (reception, keynote speaker, etc.).

Old Business:

A: 2018 Celebration Planning: Michael sent Rev. Middlebrook an official letter with details about our event and what would be expected of him as the keynote speaker. He agreed to all of the terms (keynote+ additional features like radio interviews, etc.). "The Man, The Movement, the Memorial" is his proposed theme. Cost is \$2,500+expenses (flight, shuttle, hotel). James made a motion to offer Rev. Harold Middlebrook a contract to be the 2018 speaker. Reggie seconded. All approved.

Michael is also working with the African American Choral Ensemble, Stages, Rogers school choir, North and South video projects. He is reserved the BCT. Nicole will contact Tri-North about ushering.

B: MLK Principles of Nonviolence (Rafi Hasan): Michael shared an update in Rafi's absence. Rafi proposed our support of an educational program on ways to protest using Dr. King's steps of nonviolence. His hopes to begin dialog with organizations of young people to educate them on the ways that nonviolent protest can be used as an effective means of making a statement. Michael asked him to clarify which problems or issues he specifically wants to address in these sessions. Commissioners discussed the ways that protests have changed over the years, and we look forward to more from Rafi about this educational partnership.

New Business:

A: 25 years of Commission and Community Memories: The Commission is considering ways to honor the 25th anniversary of our commission, using some sort of media format to relay memories from past commission members and

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

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community leaders related to local civil rights issues and the MLK Commission. Ideas presented included a book, social media bursts, a website, tabling at our event, a video project, or another type of publication. We came up with several questions to ask past participants, including:

- How has the work of the commission or civil rights changed over the years in our community?
- Who helped you become more involved with advocacy for civil rights in Bloomington? How did they impact you and/or your involvement?
- Can you think of an MLK program presentation that stands out to you as unique, riveting, or especially inspiring (a keynote speaker, contributions from local youth, or an artistic piece at the city celebration)?
- Can you remember an MLK Day Service Project that was unique or especially inspiring? What do you think it means that Bloomington considers MLK Day “A Day On! Not A Day Off!”

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males: James is working with United Way on a financial literacy partnership program. David shared that the “lunch shaming” policy in MCCSC has been overturned and they are looking for a better solution to deal with unpaid lunch debts.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: No updates.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

August 23, 4:30-5:30

September 27, 4:30-5:30

October 25, 4:30-5:30