

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACK MALES  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
5:30pm  
Hooker Conference Room #245 City Hall  
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN

AGENDA

Members Present: Cornelius Wright, John McCluskey Jr., Fred Darko, David Hummons, James Sanders

Guests: Casey Green, Indiana University; Caleb Poer, Bloomington North High School student

Staff: Rafi Khalid Hasan II, City of Bloomington Liaison, Geoffrey Bradley, Monroe County

Felony Deputy Prosecutor/Senior Trial Attorney

Cornelius Wright called the meeting at 5:40pm.

**1. Introductions**

**2. Request for Additional Agenda Items**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Minutes approved at 5:45pm

**4. New Business**

a. First Day of School with MCCSC August 9

i. 2017 Million Father March

1. Last year group of black males went to Fairview for beginning of first day of school. Discussion of extending reach to add at least Jackson Creek. Intention is to show commitment to children's educational success. Cornelius willing to take lead on 2017.
2. Discussion of inclusiveness to bring in all fathers and father figures. Could be invitation that comes from CSBM or collaboration with another commission.
3. Discussion of possibility of including fundraising component for school lunch funds.
4. Motion to participate in MFM brought by Fred Darko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Sanders. Motion approved 5:52pm.

b. Independence Day parade 2018

- i. CSBM expressed interest in participating in 2018. Cornelius will reintroduce the topic of participation closer to July 2018.

c. Media Bias reporting group

- i. Intent is to review HT and IDS for bias, from the perspective of submitting a future report to the respective papers and Common Council. Ideal task for official workgroup.

- ii. Motion to form reporting group by Fred Darko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Sanders. Motion approved 6:57pm.
- iii. Continued discussion about not about reinventing the wheel but creating partnerships. Focus should be on great community, not IU centric.
- d. Outstanding Black Male Leader of Tomorrow 2018
  - i. All nominees will be invited acknowledged by name in the future at the Black History Month Gala.
- e. Principal at Bloomington North HS – search
  - i. Search committee has reached out for input regarding questions/concerns that should be addressed during interview process. Send sample questions to Rafi.

## **5. Liaison report**

- a. Action Items: June Minutes
  - i. Rafi is combing through past minutes to help facilitate tracking and ensure approved items come to fruition. He will help schedule small meetings with community partners to help advance goals.

## **6. Old Business**

- a. Addressing School Lunch Shaming MCCSC Board of School Trustees
  - i. School Board meeting July 25, 2017 6pm
    - 1. After much feedback from community, the MCCSC Board of Trustees promised to revisit lunch shaming policy. History: students with a debt equivalent to 3 hot meals were given cold lunches of peanut butter or cheese sandwiches, fruit cup, and milk.
      - a. New proposed policy: 8500
        - i. To charge lunch, must be FULL lunch/breakfast - not a la carte.
        - ii. Can prepay electronically (will bank fees, which cannot be avoided) or pay cash/check anytime. Possible minimum amount to pay electronically.
        - iii. Child will use a PIN and remain completely out of the loop. No notes will be sent home with the student. Alternative meals will be eliminated.
        - iv. Notifications: Daily auto call if account has less than or equal to \$6.00 but can opt out. Can enroll in text. Written letter will be sent at -\$10.00. Contact by principal at -\$25.00. Principals and social workers will work with families to guide them toward needed resources.
        - v. Food Assistance Funds: Bad debt must be restored via non fed funds. Donations, payable to FMCCS, cover cost of meals for students above base charge limit. Donations from Bobo book sale are earmarked only for students on reduced lunches. Charges in excess of fund paid to be paid by MCCSC. New meal balance every year. Debt does not follow students.

2. Ask that everyone who can support this policy at school board meeting - very important to go as School Board is likely to have remarks.
- b. Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Awareness
    - i. IU Health Statewide Colorectal Cancer Screening Program
      1. This is an improvement on free kits alone, as this does not require a payment to receive the results. Results are free though a grant.
        - a. Seeking to have between 100-150 people screened and help get set up with healthcare provider. Looking for 50+ year old men (and women) or 35-50 year olds with family history.
      2. Discussion of how to reach all populations, including homeless, People's Park, Seminary Square, etc.
        - a. Community does good job getting homeless health insurance through ACA
        - b. Contact Commission on Status of Women for assistance reaching out to Black Women
  - c. Bicentennial Real Man Read Program
    - i. Goal is to get men to read 200 hrs at Title I schools. Work with Caleb & Commissioner Turner to get men signed up, present ID, etc. in order to be able to participate.
    - ii. Discussion of recruiting men at MFM on Aug 9.
  - d. Black Male Summit at City Hall
    - i. IU Men of Color Conference not at IU this year. Patrick Smith meeting with Cornelius and David Hummons to get something set up for future. Incorporate components of Black Males Matter Day.
    - ii. Fall 2018 target date – to be named
  - e. Request to Common Council for two affiliates to CSBM
    - i. John McCluskey to get letter to Rafi by Friday
  - f. Bloomington Housing Authority “Back to School Fair” 8/2
    - i. Seth attended meeting July 11. They would like positive male role models to attend. Event is limited to Crestmont, which has a 501C3 associated with it. The event is less “fair” than “small giveaway”.
  - g. Action committee reports
    - i. EDUCATION
      1. School Lunch Shaming
        - a. See above
      2. First Day of School
        - a. See above
      3. Real Men Read
        - a. See above
    - ii. HEALTH AND WELLNESS
      1. 2017 IU Health Statewide Colorectal Cancer Screening Program
        - a. See above
    - iii. EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
      1. Financial Literacy
        - a. Dollars and Cents financial simulation program. Terence has a lot of kids through Banneker Center. United Way

currently conducting program, Terence wants to take it up too. Totally doable to fulfill goals.

- i. Composed of 10 lessons, approx. 1 hour each with lots of activities. Gets into credit, buying car, etc. In school program targets age 14+. Outside school program could be expanded as adults need this information too.
  - ii. Amy has enough materials to be borrowed; James also has small \$1300.00 budget
  - iii. James to look into partnering, will need to decide who to work with. Amy would look forward to having another training session. James will let commission know.
  - iv. Will be held July 24-28 from 4:30-5:30 at Rhino's. James plans to attend actual sessions to get sense of program and ideas.
- b. Old National Bank may give financial literacy materials for free. James will look into this.

iv. **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- 1. Media Bias reporting group
  - a. See above
- h. Letter from Commission on Status of Children and Youth
  - i. Looking to collaborate for bicentennial event. Join to ask school age kids to complete research project on historical minority community members. Cornelius will follow up.
  - ii. Motion to collaborate on this project by David Hummons, second by John McCluskey. Motion passed at 6:50pm.
- i. Indiana Diplomas: General, Core 40, Academic Honors, Technical Honors
  - i. Technical Honors not promoted by schools
  - ii. Students don't receive adequate preparation and advising, only encountering advising for behavior.

**7. Adjournments**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

**8. Announcements**

- a. August meeting: Christ McBride, Principal, Hoosier Hills Career Center
- b. Ask Police Chief to September meeting?
- c. Geoffrey Bradley: Running for Judge in next election - Court 9, seat 8. Currently, 3 judges retiring with 3 more retiring in 2020. Current Prosecutor is also running for Judge.