



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

Wednesday November 15, 2017

The meeting began at 4:31 pm

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Nicole Griffin, Lily Kleinlein, Mary Stephenson

Associates: David Hummons

Staff, Guests: Michael Shermis, Anthony Christian

Approval of Minutes: Nicole made a motion to approve the October minutes, Lily seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: All updates shared below.

Old Business:

A: 2018 Celebration Planning: We discussed program details. Marcus volunteered to be the emcee. We decided to ask Mary Ann Macklin from the UU Church to give closing remarks. We discussed hospitality for our keynote speaker and also possibly adding security measures for the event. Anthony is working on funding follow up calls. Debra is going to check with Ivy Tech and Michael will work with IU regarding funding.

B: Youth Involvement: The Youth Group meeting and Q+A is confirmed for 1pm at Banneker on MLK Day.

C. Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative: The discussion group met again today. Debra attended on behalf of the Commission and Michael facilitated. Others in attendance included: Rafi Hasan, Barbara McKinney, Darrell Ann Stone, Michael Valiant, Megan Betz, and Elizabeth Gray (representing MCPL, IU, City of Bloomington, MLK Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Bloomington United). The group discussed different possibilities of how to proceed, focusing on current civic engagement initiatives and how to work within that framework. MCPL will begin research best practices for how other communities have had success with these types of initiatives.

New Business:

A. 40 Days of Peace Student Media Service Projects: Michael said that Bloomington North is still on track for creating a video montage of the volunteer projects. Next step is sharing a list of project sites to visit.

As part of an attempt to encourage projects and collaboration, The Media School at IU sent an RFP that they hope will benefit students as well as community organizations, and they are including the MLK Commission as a supporting partner in this collaboration. Michael shared a document from IU Media School which included details from the request for proposals: "The Media School and the City of Bloomington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission are seeking 3-5 partner organizations from the Bloomington community to submit ideas for media projects that commemorate the legacy of Dr. King and promote his ideals of peace, community and nonviolent communication." They are seeking applications from organizations and from students, who will receive a stipend for their work. The Media School will share any projects with Michael as they come in.

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

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Michael also received a newsletter from A Time to Choose Coalition. They are planning a large project this year involving house parties where the community can come together and talk about climate change. They credited the MLK Commission in their newsletter as a major supporter of their project last year. Already this week two faith communities met as part of this collaboration to view a documentary on climate change.

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males: No updates.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: No updates.

Announcements:

-Michael shared information about the "Read for 200" Literacy project through the Commission on the Status of Black Males. Volunteer recruitment is ongoing through December 15.

-Michael announced that 3 of the commission members have terms ending in January. Nicole, Mary, and Marcus are encouraged to reapply for the commission before the end of January.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 20, 4:30-5:30 (Kelly Room)

January 24, 2018 4:30-5:30 (McCloskey)