



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

**Wednesday December 20, 2017**

The meeting began at 4:37 pm

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

**Staff:** Michael Shermis

**Associates, Guests:** Dan Enslow

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

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael invited the commissioners to a City Bicentennial Celebration on NYE. The rest of his report is reflected in the minutes below.

**Old Business:**

**A: Fund Development Efforts:** Michael shared that there is \$3100 outstanding in pledged funds, but we did raise enough to cover costs for this year's event. Our balance is \$1,094.31.

**B: Program:** Michael gave us the celebration details and a proof of the event program. Marcus will emcee, Reggie will recognize volunteers, North will be sharing a video, and we will acknowledge Visions of Peace projects. Fairview Elementary will perform several songs and then will collaborate with the African American Choral Ensemble before the Ensemble performs. James will introduce the keynote speaker, including personal stories of their shared history. Rev. Mary Ann Macklin agreed to give closing remarks. Michael shared a list of tasks and activities that CFRD staff and volunteers will be working on MLK Day. There is still a need for a few more ushers and photographers.

**C: Middlebrook Youth program—Banneker, 1pm Jan. 15:** Michael updated the commission: Rev. Middlebrook will talk for 20 minutes and then there will be a Q+A in the Banneker Center Gym. Commissioners are all invited to attend the youth program. James said that his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha (fraternity of both MLK and Middlebrook) would like to donate refreshments for the event. He will talk with Banneker to set up the details.

**D: Stories of Peace (IU Media School Project):** There are 4 proposals (Harmony Middle School, Lotus, My Sister's Closet, Creek Classroom) to create videos related to the Visions of Peace. There will be a public presentation in February. IU students applied this week to cover each project and will find out next week who is chosen.

**E: Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative:** The next planning meeting is January 8 at 4pm to discuss next steps. Bloomington United is eager to move forward with this initiative as a major part of their 2018 plan.

**New Business:**

**A. MLK Budget (Catering Increase):** Michael shared the budget as of today. The pledged funds amount is now at \$3100 for a total of \$8480.31. The original budget allotted \$1200 for catering and Michael recommended we increase this to \$2000 to ensure we have enough to go around. He also shared a proof of a new photo booth with props where attendees can have their picture taken at the event (the prop will cost between \$20-40). Past CFRD interns are coming back to help with the pictures. Michael asked if the commission would support using \$1,000 from our budget to fund a service project. The Hoosier Hills Food Bank is interested in using funds to purchase food for a service project of 50+

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participants. The reason Michael and CFRD are asking for this support is that there are currently very few service projects posted on BVN and there are more volunteers than jobs at this point. If we provide funding to HHFB, the BVN will kick in some financial support as well. HHFB excels at building large scale volunteer projects without a long planning period. After discussion, all agreed to support a service project with \$1,000.

**B: Memories:** We only received one response, and it was not historically accurate. Nicole suggested putting out paper and pencils at the celebration to gather a few more memories.

**C: Legacy Award:** We do not have any nominations yet this year. Michael is going to check with Debra to see if they could re-submit their nomination from last year of Ivy Tech Diversity Division. Commission members should reach out to anyone they know who would like to make a nomination, and we will vote by email after January 5.

**D: 40 Days of Peace Presentations for Bloomington Montessori (Jessica Davis) Feb 5, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30am:** There are 3 presentations, 2 groups of kids age 6-9 and 1 group of kids age 9-12. Michael suggested we re-work the material this year since they all saw the standard presentation last year. Nicole said that she enjoyed participating in the past. Reggie is interested in leading these discussions but needs a bit more time to consider.

**E: Middlebrook PSA:** Michael asked that a Commissioner go to WGCL Studio (Wednesday mornings is best) to record a PSA. Nicole volunteered.

**F: Poster Distribution:** Michael passed posters to hang up at locations the commissioners frequent and asked for help posting on campus and Kirkwood. Reggie will post at IU, Nicole at Kirkwood businesses.

**G. Photos of Service Projects:** Commission members who are interested in taking photos at the service projects on MLK Day (to submit electronically for an evening slide show) should let Michael know their availability.

**H: Social Media Plan:** There is a plan in place of when each post will go out to help promote the event. David asked how IU is going to help promote the event and Michael said that we send all of our materials to them and they post on their own terms. Mayor Hamilton will speak at the IU Breakfast, Rev. Middlebrook might have a role at the IU Breakfast.

**I: AACE Exhibit:** The African American Choral Ensemble expressed interest in putting an exhibit in the lobby, much like we invited the NAACP to do last year. All agreed that this would be a good addition.

**J: Multi-Commission Bicentennial Project (Jan. 3, 12:00pm, Hooker Room):** The Commission on the Status of Families and Children approached CFRD about collaborating with other commissions for the bicentennial through a series of contests for kids. Michael suggested a contest that leads up to the Remembrance Event in April, but we'd have to start ASAP. Michael is going to ask Marcus if he can attend the planning meeting on January 3. All agreed that it is worth looking into. There is a bicentennial endorsement program run by CFRD and Parks and Rec. Michael could complete an application on behalf of the commission. We would need a letter of support from a community organization, and Michael asked NAACP for this. We could then get a sign to post at our event.

**Liaison Reports:**

**A. Commission on the Status of Black Males:** James said that they met with Police Chief Diekhoff to discuss several topics, they have a big push for their Read for 200 initiative (200 hours of reading to community youth). They are also taking nominations for the Outstanding Black Leader of Tomorrow (must be under age 30).

**B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP:** No updates.

**Announcements:**

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**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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

February 28, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

March 28, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

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