



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Wednesday February 28, 2018

The meeting began at 4:39 pm

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Gloria Howell, Reggie Johnson, Lily Kleinlein

Associates, Staff, Guests: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Reggie made a motion to accept the January minutes as written, Gloria seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael noted that there is \$2,030.19 in the account. This is a bit more than last year.

Old Business:

A. Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative (Lily/Michael): Lily and Michael shared information about the planning group. They are working on a framework, who the audience might be, and print materials for the initiative. The MCPL will continue to be a major player since they have resources, event and meetings space, and community connections.

B. Multi-Commission Bicentennial Project (Marcus/Michael): Michael shared an update on the Bicentennial Arts Project, a large arts contest for youth artists (2D/3D, written/spoken word, performance art, etc.). They are finalizing details of the contest and getting ready to put things online. Marcus is still a contact for the schools. Michael shared information about a tabling opportunity for the commission at an upcoming Bicentennial Street Fair. No one from the commission was available to work the event so Michael will let the City know that we are unable to participate.

C. MLK Remembrance Day Planning (Marcus/Michael): Michael gave an update about the event and the Commission members helped finalize details. We decided to move forward with an event on Wednesday, April 4 from 4-6pm. Gloria volunteered to take the lead on this event, along with Michael. Gloria noted that her sorority already does plantings and upkeep at Rev. Butler Park and she thought the IU black Greek system would be interested in participating in our event. Michael said that there is a strong possibility we could make an honorary street naming for the event. The current plans include planting flowers at the park, an honorary street naming, a walk along the B-Line for 1.5 miles to the bridge at Grimes Lane, a proclamation by the Mayor at the bridge, and participants could then walk back or we will check with Bloomington Transit about a bus to give participants a ride back. We discussed making "joining spots" like Kroger and Showers so that people who are not interested in walking so far can still participate. Marcus will check with Kroger about donation of water bottles and the possibility of parking in their lot. Gloria is going to check with her sorority and ask James to check with his fraternity about interest in collaborating.

D. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Speaker Selection: Michael shared results of his research on potential speakers. He did not hear back from Michelle Obama. Elizabeth Eckford's representative has not been very responsive with details. He shared a spreadsheet of potential speakers from our previous meetings and two new suggestions (Nikole Hannah-Jones and Victoria Pratt). We viewed a TED talk from Victoria Pratt, a NJ judge who works on "procedural justice." She spoke about justice and fairness, and the Commission members thought she'd be worth pursuing. Michael will follow up with several of the potential speakers before our next meeting.



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New Business:

- A. Commission Elections:** Lily nominated Marcus as Chair, James as Vice Chair, and herself as Secretary. Gloria seconded. All approved.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 28 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)
April 25, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)
May 23, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)
June 27, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)