



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

Wednesday March 28, 2018

The meeting began at 4:34 pm

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

Associates, Guests: Dan Enslow, David Hummons, Ernest Rollins (HT Reporter)

Staff: Michael Shermis

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

Staff Liaison Report: Michael announced new appointments to the commission since our last meeting. Marcus Debro was reappointed, Dianne Shewmaker is joining the commission.

Old Business:

A. Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative (Lily/Michael): Lily shared an update about the initiative's planning group. They are working on a brochure, and the Human Rights Commission just joined the planning. They are narrowing down what services they will offer and will use public interest to guide the types of consultation for services/projects to move ahead with.

B. Bicentennial Arts Project (Marcus/Michael): Michael is acting for the staff (due to a retirement in CFRD) as the new point person for this project. There is a press release and a website with guidelines/submission information in the works. Promotion will begin April 9.

C. MLK Remembrance Day Planning (Gloria/Michael): Michael and Gloria have been working on a timeline of events and shared updates with the group. There is a potential that voter registration will take place at the event, but none of the interested parties had confirmed by meeting time. The Commission decided to put voter registration at the end of the march so that it doesn't hold up the timeline of events. The event will include a proclamation by the Mayor and comments by several distinguished guests and Commission members. Parks and Rec will be cleaning out the bed at the corner of 9th and Fairview and preparing it for easy planting. After the planting, we will march the B-Line with several pick up spots for people to join. At the end there will be a short program and possibly voter registration. Michael is bringing signs (MLK Day Yard Signs). Facilities is providing equipment for the presentation, we will ring the bell in solidarity with other communities at 6:01, and a Bloomington Transit bus will drive people back to the Park. Marcus is checking in about food donations from Kroger.

D. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Speaker Selection: Michael shared an update on speakers: no response from Victoria Pratt, Nikole Hannah-Jones is \$15,000 (out of our price range), and we added Ruha Benjamin to the list of potential speakers. An agency contacted us with several suggestions and Benjamin was the most appropriate for MLK Day. Her speaking fee is \$10,000. We would likely need her to drop the fee by several thousand. Marcus encouraged the commission members to review her videos and give feedback by Friday. If the commission agrees that Ruha Benjamin is a good option, Michael will pursue the lead. Gloria stated that it might be interesting to have an artist, musician, or someone other than a classic keynote. She gave the example of Mavis Staples. Others agreed that people come to our event to be inspired and that it can come from many formats, and all agreed that someone like Mavis Staples would be a great choice. Michael asked that commission members send any ideas to him soon.

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

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New Business:

Ernest Rollins came to the meeting on behalf of the Herald Times to interview our Commission in preparation for an article he is writing about Dr. King's legacy and local memories of his life, assassination, and lasting legacy. We answered questions and shared stories after the meeting ended.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

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)