



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

Wednesday April 25, 2018

The meeting began at 4:36 pm

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Gloria Howell, Reggie Johnson, Dianne Shewmaker

Staff: Michael Shermis

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

Staff Liaison Report: Michael announced a new initiative, coming from the Office of the Mayor, has set it up on Facebook so that all monthly meetings are announced and lead to a public comment section. Comments will come to Michael and will be offered in a new section of the agenda. The Facebook announcements also encourage the public to come to meetings. The idea is to encourage transparency and more public engagement. This is a nine-month trial.

Old Business:

A. Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative (Lily/Michael): Michael shared that the brochure for the Initiative will be coming out mid-May. He also let Commissioners know that Daryl Davis, an African American man who engages with Ku Klux Klan members to relinquish their robes to him, will be coming for the Boogie Woogie Piano Festival in August. Currently the Initiative is negotiating with him to help with a workshop at the Monroe Public County Library auditorium on Tuesday, August 14th. More details on the program, time, etc., will be coming. Marcus shared that he passed out many of the Six Principles of Nonviolence to his students and believed they had an effect on their behaviors recently. He asked for more to distribute. Reggie also asked for more to provide to the Residence Halls.

B. Bicentennial Arts Project (Marcus/Michael): Marcus shared that he gave a donation on behalf of the Commission. Entries will start coming in soon and the contest ends June 29th.

C. MLK Remembrance Day Planning (Gloria/Michael): There was a short debrief and Commissioners thanked Gloria for doing such a great job including several groups and getting the speakers set up. There were approximately 90 people there.

D. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Speaker Selection: Michael shared that Ruha Benjamin is \$8,000 (after coming down). So she is out of our range. The decision was made to pursue Janai Nelson with the idea that NAACP might want to co-sponsor. Michael will make contact asap.

New Business:

None this month

Announcements:

The African American Choral Ensemble, of which Gloria is a member, will be giving their Spring conference on Saturday, April 28th, 7:30 p.m., at the Buskirk Chumley Theater.

Dianne reminded folks that Bloomington United yard signs are available, as well as \$40 sponsorships. Michael pointed out that signs are in the Atrium at the front desk of City Hall.

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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 23, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

June 27, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

July 25, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

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