



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

**Wednesday August 22, 2018**

The meeting began at 4:30 pm.

**Commission Members:** Marcus Debro, Jaslynn Hides, Gloria Howell, Reggie Johnson, Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

**Associates and Guests:** Dan Enslow, David Hummons, Debra Vance

**Staff:** Michael Shermis,

Introductions. Welcome to new commission member Jaslynn!

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for May and June were approved, with a correction of the meeting date in June minutes. Dianne motioned to approve both sets of minutes with the change, Reggie seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael announced that his colleague Rafi Hasan left CFRD for a position with MCCSC. He gave an updated status on the department staffing needs as it relates to commissions. Other news is included in business below.

**Old Business:**

- A. Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative (Lily/Michael):** Lily shared about the event with Daryl Davis. More than 100 community members were in attendance. Dianne said that Mr. Davis was a compelling speaker and an incredible musician. Michael gave the most recent event evaluations, which were positive. Lily and Michael agreed that next steps for the NCEI group are unknown but they plan to meet for an event debrief soon.
- B. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Speaker and Next Steps:** Michael updated that Janai Nelson's signed contract is complete. He will start communicating with her about a potential keynote theme. The commission discussed musical options for the event. Options include African American Choral Ensemble (already confirmed), Fairview Show Choir (Michael will reach out), a new Women's Choir (Michael will reach out about a possible song outside the BCT before the event), an Interfaith Choir through the UU Church (Dianne suggested), and Gloria suggested we look into ways to make the event unique from past years. New ideas included Alpha Phi Alpha (MLK's Fraternity) Step group. One challenge that Lily and Michael noted is that there is not a lot of room for flexibility in the schedule once you consider all of the pieces that are set each year. Michael said that the event must end at 8:30pm. Debra asked Michael to bring a sample program in September so that the commission can look for space in the schedule for something new. Michael shared that other pieces he is working on include the BCT contract and a media sponsorship from WTIU. Eventually fundraising for \$7,000 will be needed.

**New Business:**

- A. MLK Birthday Celebration 2020 Speaker:** Michael said that Beverly Calender-Anderson and NCEI planning members enjoyed Daryl Davis' presentation and suggested him for the MLK Celebration in 2020. Michael confirmed that he is available at this point and is within the commission's price range. He has many keynote topics that would connect well with MLK Day and is currently speaking with Bernice King (MLK Daughter) at a couple events. Michael will follow up with him.

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

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- B. Co-Commission Collaboration of MCCSC Data (disproportionate percentage of the Black/African American and Latino and Hispanic student populations received in-school and out-of-school suspensions):** Michael and Marcus received an email from Julie Warren (Commission on the Status of Children and Youth) about a potential collaboration between commissions to address the issue of disproportionate suspensions for students of color in Bloomington. Debra asked for more information and a link to the data for her work with NAACP. Commission members discussed the issue and both Debra and Dianne expressed interest in working on this type of project.

**Public Comments:** None

**Announcements:**

- Dan and David updated the commission on the status of the Noah's Ark initiative on Religion, Race, and Privilege. They are still looking for more representation from the African American community so that each discussion group is more diverse. They are hosting trainings and Dan asked to use the commission's email list to recruit facilitators/participants. Michael said they could submit an article for the September newsletter.
- James shared an update about the work of the Commission on the Status of Black Males. They participated in the Million Father March by welcoming Fairview students on the first day of school. They are recruiting for the Read for 200 Project and performed a play at City Hall. They are working on the 2018 Summit on Black Male Youth and will be working on an update to the Outstanding Leader of Tomorrow awards.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:26pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

September 26, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)