



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

Wednesday September 26, 2018

The meeting began at 4:33 pm.

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Gloria Howell, Reggie Johnson, Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker
Staff: Michael Shermis, Danya Tabesh

Welcome to SPEA intern, Danya Tabesh! She is a senior at IU and will be interning with the City through the school year.

Approval of Minutes: Dianne motioned to approve the August minutes as written, Reggie seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael announced that Bloomington Human Rights Commission is walking in the IU Homecoming Parade and all commissioners are invited to participate. October 12, 4:30pm at Orange Lot IU Stadium. Interested participants should contact Michael.

Old Business:

- A. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Speaker and Next Steps:** Michael shared that he is starting the fundraising for the event and keynote speaker. He recently made a new connection at IU with Cassi Winslow-Edmonson, Director of IU Corps. Her job is to connect IU with the community. Since their meeting she's helped connect Michael with many leaders at IU who may be able to support our event (and other community programs) by means of publicity and outreach, and possibly even financial support. One of the connections through IU Residence Halls seems quite promising regarding funding service projects for residents to participate in. Another promising connection is through IU Law School who may be interested in supporting our speaker for 2019. Marcus recommended that Michael reach out to David O'Guinn, chief counsel at IU (and Marcus will make an initial contact). In addition to these new potential partnerships, the fundraising letter will go out to past donors in the week ahead. Commissioners may be asked to help with follow up calls/emails. Confirmed sponsors include the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Bloomington and Lola B. Debro Family. Michael will be speaking with Janai Nelson soon to confirm the details of the event and develop a keynote theme. Marketing for the event begins in October. The BCT contract is signed and Michael will reach out to the same caterer since many raved about the food.
- B. Review of Program Timeline:** Michael handed out the program and script from last year. The commission looked for ways to make space for a new arts feature as discussed last month (Step performance by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity). Gloria spoke to someone from Alpha who confirmed they would be interested in performing a 3-5 minute piece in honor of Dr. King. All agreed that this would make a good addition to the event and would require only minor cuts in a couple areas that Michael could do to tighten up the program. Lily suggested moving the nomination process up for Legacy Award so it doesn't conflict with busy holidays and breaks. Several commission members suggested limiting *We Shall Overcome* to one verse. For the closing words, several commission members suggested reaching out to the new Pastor at Bethel AME Church. The Commission assigned roles for the program (Gloria Emcee, Reggie Volunteer Recognition, James is willing to help as needed).

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

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New Business:

- A. Co-Commission Collaboration of MCCSC Data:** Marcus updated that the data being discussed is in the school district's hands and they are being intentional about how they work with students, particularly students of color. The district takes the issue very seriously and are working on evaluating and improving their processes. When working with students, he tries to encourage tolerance and help new students adjust to the community.

Public Comments: None

NAACP Update: Dianne announced that the Freedom Fund Banquet is coming up on October 27. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time through the Buskirk Chumley Box Office (online or in-person). Also, the NAACP annual meeting and Christmas party will take place on December 11 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said that the group had nominations for officers at the last meeting, elections will be held next month. They are also working on a new health initiative and "Read for 200."

Announcements:

- Marcus announced that throughout the month of September, the Mayor has been holding free community walks called "Move with the Mayor." They've been meeting on Thursdays at various city parks. Marcus thinks it would be a great idea for Commissioners to get involved and support this initiative. The final two walks will be 9/27 at Southeast Park (6pm) and Saturday 9/29 at B-Line Trail/Farmer's Market (10am).
- Dianne announced that she is acting in Monroe County Civic Theater's performance of *King Lear*, beginning October 12 at the Waldron Arts Center. There are six performances and all are invited to attend. She will be playing the role of the doctor.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

October 24, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)
November 28, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)
December TBD