



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

Wednesday November 28, 2018

The meeting began at 4:37 p.m.

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

Associates: Debra Vance

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Gloria motioned to approve the October 25 minutes as written, Reggie seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared that the NAACP needs to submit a letter stating that they wish to re-appoint Reggie or another representative to the MLK Commission. Reggie agreed to follow up with Jim Sims.

Old Business:

- A. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Planning Update:** Michael shared an update about the proposed program. He's had difficulty getting a response from the fraternity who planned to perform step and needs tech details this week. Gloria followed up during the meeting and they said that they would not be able to be a part of this year's event due to scheduling conflicts. The keynote speaker introduction is still to be determined. Michael suggested Lauren Robel because of her connection with IU Law School and willingness to participate in the past. Commissioners agreed that she is a good choice and Michael will follow up. After last month's discussion Michael tried to reach Rev. Eddy Howard from Bethel AME about the closing message, but hasn't had any response. Gloria agreed to follow up with him this week and ask him to contact Michael if interested. Commissioners reviewed the proposed program, which will be similar to past years. The majority of speaking roles have been confirmed (emcee, volunteer recognition, city and county representatives). The African American Choral Ensemble is confirmed (their price is up to \$500 this year), and Fairview School is confirmed (songs TBD). Michael is following up with the AACE about the musical contributions and the audience participation songs. Michael is also finalizing a long list of to-dos for January (catering, tech plan, 40 Days of Peace presentations, keynote speaker travel arrangements, etc.). On behalf of the commission, Marcus gave Michael thanks for all of his work on the programing thus far.

Michael shared a funding update. After commissioner follow ups, the new total is \$3100 in hand and \$6950 pledged. Michael is still working on IU and NAACP who are likely contributors. He shared a draft of the poster (pending sponsorships) and says he will bring printed posters in December so that commissioners can help distribute. Michael noted that the social media campaign is up and running and a general media release will go out within the next week.

New Business:

- A. Determine Legacy Voting Procedures for December 12 Meeting:** Michael shared that there will probably be 2-5 nominees this year. The deadline is December 5. He will send nominations to the commissioners prior to the December 12 meeting. Lily shared different voting methods that have been used by the commission to determine a Legacy Award winner in the past (roll call single vote, private written single vote, a ranked system where each

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commissioner ranks 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). She also said that in the past commissioners had to decide whether to base the votes on nomination alone or if commissioners could share added information about a nominee's work and background. Commissioners decided a ranked vote based solely on the nomination as written to limit bias. We will choose the winner based on who receives the highest score (most points).

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Dianne shared that on December 11 the NAACP is hosting an annual meeting and Christmas party. 7 p.m. at the UU Church. Bring a dish to share. Everyone coming will get a gift.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James was not present to share an update.

Announcements:

- Lily asked about the applications for reappointment. Michael said that applications were received.
- Gloria shared that on Friday December 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. the Black Grad Student Association is hosting a holiday party for Banneker Center kids and they are soliciting donations of ornaments to decorate, Santa hats, and stockings. Anyone can give donations to Gloria or drop off directly to Banneker. BGA's Annual Philanthropy is collecting Books and Toys that represent diverse populations and those types of donations are always welcome.
- Dianne shared that on Sunday December 2, 4-6 p.m. Monroe County Civic Theater is hosting a benefit for Middle Way House. The event is at Players Pub.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 12, 2018, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Hooker)

January 23, 2019, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

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