



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

Wednesday December 12, 2018

The meeting began at 4:37pm

Commission Members: Gloria Howell, David Hummons, Reggie Johnson, Lily Kleinlein, Dianne Shewmaker

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Dianne motioned to approve the November 28 minutes. Gloria seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael updated that the commission raised enough money to cover this year's costs. \$7,150 total pledged (including checks still coming for \$2,000 from IU OVPDEMA, \$250 from NAACP, \$100 from Bloomington Human Rights Commission, and \$500 from Monroe County Human Rights Commission/Monroe County Commissioners).

Old Business:

- A. MLK Birthday Celebration 2019 Planning Update:** Michael is working on updating the scripts. Lauren Robel agreed to introduce the keynote speaker, but can't fully commit until January. Michael is working on background videos for the volunteer recognition segment, although there is only one volunteer project posted so far (email just went out to past grant recipients encouraging them to register with BVN). Michael is in the middle of POs for the program, hotel reservations, volunteer ushers, and he noted that Nicole Griffith offered to put together a welcome bag for our speaker. Michael handed out posters to commissioners to share around town. Michael will be out of office at the end of the month, and is working to finalize program and 40 Days of Peace before then. Gloria asked about Ms. Nelson's schedule while in town. Michael said he will keep commissioners informed of opportunities to gather with her for dinner at Uptown, etc. Gloria asked about the notation of "Faith Communities" event sponsors and Michael explained that this is based on a Sunday evening MLK service that different congregations participate in.
- B. Harmonious Women of Hope:** Michael was in communications with this new choral group, asking them to sing outside the theater as community comes in to the BCT. They talked it over yesterday, and it isn't going to work out this year. Instead, Rogers elementary school children reached out to Michael. They will sing indoors on the mezzanine during the reception to avoid issues with bad weather. Michael suggested Commission members arrive at 5:45 before the doors open at 6:00, in anticipation that the lobby will be much more hectic and crowded.

New Business:

- A. Legacy Award Voting:** Commissioners voted on the nominees for the Legacy award. There were 4 nominees, all with strong nominations! Each commissioner completed a ballot with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. Each 1st earned 5pts, each 2nd earned 3 pts, and each 3rd earned 1 pt. Michael will follow up with the winner and their nominator and invite the other nominees, too.
- B. Remembrance Day:** Two years ago the commission held its first Remembrance Day on April 4, an educational event for kids at the Banneker Center. There were many teens in attendance, but most of the activities were planned for

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younger children. Last year we held a flower planting and march along the B-Line trail with speakers at the end. Michael said it is time to decide if we want to hold another event this year. All agreed that they would like to move forward with an event, and will revisit the planning after MLK Day in January. Ideas for this year included: Partnering with other groups (NAACP, Bloomington United, other Commissions, etc.) to reach a wider audience, a “state of the nation” comparing the times of MLK to today, a political forum, looking into what important issues were going on 50 years ago (voting rights, sanitation worker rights, anti-war movement), looking at the important legislations and movements that MLK’s work inspired in the years ahead. Other ideas included another march, with speeches along the trail about issues that he championed (inviting local leaders to speak at each station).

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Dianne noted that the NAACP Annual Meeting and Christmas party went very well.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: No update.

Announcements: Dianne did a radio interview about community engagement on WFHB.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm

Upcoming Meetings:

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

February 27, 2019 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

March 27, 2019 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)