



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

**Wednesday March 27, 2019**

The meeting began at 4:33 p.m.

**Commission Members:** Marcus Debro, Jaslynn Hides, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders,

**Associates and Guests:** Dianne Shewmaker

**Staff:** Michael Shermis

**Approval of Minutes:** Discussed Jan/Feb notes. Approval of notes was not required since quorum wasn't met.

**Staff Liaison Report:** All updates included in agenda below.

**Old Business:**

- Lily asked about the editorial, and Michael said that he sent the edited letter to the HT. It should run next week. James and Gloria are speaking at Bring it On (WFHB) next week.
- Marcus asked about the honorary street sign designation. It was mentioned in the past that Rogers Street or the small block next to Banneker Center would be designated or re-named in honor of MLK. Michael is going to ask about the formal application process to make the request.
- Dianne resigned from the commission to become the NAACP representing member, but we are still awaiting a letter from Bill Vance (NAACP President) to make her a voting member of the Commission again.

**New Business:**

- A. Elections:** 2019 Positions include Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Marcus called for nominations. He explained that he will not be able to attend every meeting and encouraged someone else to step into the role of Chair.
- Gloria nominated Lily for secretary. All approved.
  - Marcus nominated James to move up from Vice Chair to Chair. All approved.
  - Jaslynn nominated Gloria as Vice Chair. All approved.
- B. 2020 MLK B-Day Celebration Speaker Selection:** Michael shared a list of candidates for keynote speakers. It was partly the same list as last year, with addition of Daryl Davis and Maureen Walker, both of whom are available and within our price range. They presented in Bloomington last August. Jamele Hill, a writer for *The Atlantic* was suggested by Terri Francis, Director of the Black Film Center. Michael hasn't heard anything back about her availability. Several commissioners spoke in favor of Jemele Hill and thought she would pack the house. James asked for clarification on how soon we need to decide on a speaker. Michael said he recommends choosing by summer. Dianne spoke positively about Daryl Davis and felt that he would inspire and entertain the crowd. Michael said that he thinks that Daryl is a compelling speaker but he is not likely to talk about MLK. He is more likely to give his personal story (similar to the presentation he gave last summer). Lily said she was uncomfortable with the idea of him bringing a reformed KKK member along for this event as was mentioned in a prior meeting. We decided to table the discussion, find out Jemele Hill's availability, and Michael encouraged

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

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · [www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk)

Hrs: 8am-5pm MON-FRI · ph. 812-349-3471 · fax 812-349-3483 · [mlk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mlk@bloomington.in.gov)



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the group to continue to send potential speakers to him. Marcus suggested Julius Hanks or Stanley Madison (from Lyles Station). Gloria is still interested in pursuing an entertainer/musician.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** None

**NAACP Update:** Dianne noted that NAACP meetings have been moved to Thursdays (instead of Tuesdays), and she has had to miss recent meetings because of that change. She did ask that a letter be sent to Michael naming her as the official representative to the commission.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James shared that they recently recognized the 2019 Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow, and they are currently planning the next Barbershop Health Fair.

**Announcements:**

Marcus noted that he attended the Be More Awards, and complimented Michael and the rest of CFRD on the event and how wonderful it was for the community.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 24, 2019 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

May 22, 2019 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)

June 26, 2019 4:30-5:30 p.m. (McCloskey)