



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

Wednesday May 22, 2019

The meeting began at 5:04 p.m., without a quorum.

Commission Members: Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

Associates and Guests: Michael Shermis, Karina Suarez (Welcome to the new CFRD Intern!)

Approval of Minutes: No quorum, so April minutes will need to be approved in June.

Staff Liaison Report: All updates included in agenda below. Michael will be making initial contact with Service for Peace coordinators to inquire about funding for volunteer projects. Last year they said they were likely to reinstate funding in some capacity for 2020.

Old Business:

- A. 2020 MLK B-day Celebration Speaker Selection:** James noted that he reviewed the updated list of speakers Michael sent, and was taken aback by the high cost for Khalil Muhammad and other speakers, placing them well above our potential cap. There are issues with contacting some potential speakers because they only want you to use their websites for contacting them (and so if no response, they clearly aren't interested). Maureen Walker came to Bloomington last summer, but Michael did not have the chance to meet her. She is very eager to return to Bloomington, and the Center for Connection may be willing to partner again in some capacity, but that has yet to be identified. Michael spoke to Walker directly and she's willing to be flexible on the price. Melina Abdulla is also very interested in coming and willing to be flexible on the price. CFRD staff had mixed impressions (based on the available speeches online) about Abdulla's focus and whether it would be a good fit for the celebratory tone of our MLK event. James proposed that we move forward with considering both speakers at this point since we did not have enough members to vote. He asked about voting over email and Michael noted that we are not allowed because of state regulations. What we can do over email is submit preferences and Michael can move forward unofficially with the top choice trying to put it on their calendar, and then once a vote is made at the meeting he can move forward with a contract, etc. Dianne asked about Daryl Davis, who she was very impressed with during his visit last August. Michael noted that he gives undoubtedly a great presentation, but the issue is he is not inclined to do much customization of that presentation. Last time he came to Bloomington he was asked to customize the presentation (he did not) and stay within a time limit (he went over by more than double), so it may present as a challenge to fit within the framework of this event. He is, however, interested and within our price point.

New Business: None

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Dianne noted that NAACP meetings have been moved back to first Tuesdays at 6:30. The next meeting is June 4 at Second Baptist Church. They will be voting on two scholarship applications this month.

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

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



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Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James shared that the Commission held spring Barbershop Talks and had about 30 people in attendance for health checks. Their next event will be greeting kids at the start of the school year. Significant prep work goes into screening all of the volunteers for being in the schools. He shared that the Black y Brown Arts Festival took place earlier this month. There were lots of people, performances, artists, food trucks, and a special gallery showcase and concert in the week surrounding the main events. Attendance was good and feedback was positive about this festival.

Announcements:

- Michael will not be at the June meeting but will ask a colleague to assist in his absence.
- James thanked Michael for his hard work throughout the year and asked that he keep us informed of ways we can assist with projects outside of the meeting time.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings: *NOTE NEW TIME IS 5 PM*

June 26, 2019, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)

July 24, 2019, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)

August 28, 2019, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)