



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

**Wednesday June 26, 2019**

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

**Commission Members:** Marcus Debro, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Donte Miller, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker  
**Staff:** Karina Suarez

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of April minutes (May did not meet quorum). Dianne motioned to approve as written, Donte seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** None

**Old Business:**

- A. **2020 MLK B-day Celebration Speaker Selection:** James noted that over email, the majority of Commissioners voted to ask Dr. Abdulla to be our keynote speaker. He asked for an official vote so that Michael can move forward with the contract and details. All present voted yes to have Dr. Abdulla give the keynote for 2020.

**New Business:** None

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

**NAACP Update:** Dianne updated that NAACP was set to give two \$1,000 scholarships to college-bound seniors, but no one applied. She said they were slow to get the word out to local high schools and only ended up speaking to South and Edgewood. Bill Vance is the contact for NAACP if anyone knows of interested students. Even though the application deadline is over, it may be possible to still apply.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said that they are working on the upcoming Financial Literacy course and the Million Man March for the start of school year. Any male interested in volunteering would need to go to the MCCSC admin office to fill out a background check for the event (in-person). The last Barbershop Talk was the largest one yet, with two hosting barbershops plus a church. The event included volunteers from IU Nursing School, as well as food and music. Approx. 30 people received health risk screenings, as well as referrals to medical providers.

**Announcements:**

- Gloria brought up the idea that the MLK Commission begin to do more than solely focus on planning MLK events in January. She expressed interest in reaching out more to the community, working on projects, partnering with other groups, and thinking more critically about where we are focusing our energies. She noted that she has interest in supporting projects that address social justice. Others agreed and said that meetings focused only on planning the MLK event aren't why they got involved with the commission. We had a discussion about various options other than the MLK Day events. Ideas included: interacting with students, working with low income or

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public service employees, work with the BHS North Civil Rights Club, smaller events leading up to MLK Day and associated with our keynote, representing with volunteerism at events with compatible missions, working on the African American cultural trail, working on voter registration, driving people to the polls. James said that this is a topic we can continue to work on at future meetings.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings: \*NOTE NEW TIME IS 5 PM\***

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

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

September 25, 2019, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)