



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

Wednesday July 24, 2019

The meeting began at 5:02 p.m.

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Donte Miller (call-in), James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

Associates and Guests: Dan Enslow, David Hummons

Staff: Michael Shermis, Karina Suarez

Approval of Minutes: Marcus motioned to approve June minutes as written, Dianne seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael noted that the PACE program at IU is working with CJAM to create a restorative justice initiative, and they are looking to partner with the library to bring a speaker. They would like it to be part of the Nonviolent Civic Engagement Initiative, and therefore will be looking to the Commission for support as the event details come together. Michael handed out a skills/networks/style assessment survey that he uses with various nonprofit boards. He said we could learn about group member interest levels in various aspects of programming, and clarified that it could be used if we decide to move forward with new projects. It gives an idea of different types of skills, networking circles, and interest areas for each commissioner. Gloria asked Michael to share the survey over email, and commissioners who were present completed it at the meeting.

Old Business:

- A. **Progress Report: 2020 MLK B-day Celebration Speaker Selection:** Michael has been working with Dr. Abdullah's speaker agency (nonprofit- a first!), which has been a great experience so far. He negotiated them from \$5,000 down to \$3900, with an expected additional \$550 for flight and \$250 for hotel, meals, and daily expenses. We are now in contracting through the Legal department, expected to finish up in about a month. Michael spoke with Dr. Abdullah and said she is off to a good start with her keynote prep. She would like to have the theme of "Beautiful Struggle." The speech would be about how to apply courage to the beautiful struggle--the work of justice and peace. She would like to present an uplifting, rejuvenating speech about our sacred duty to engage, peaceful protest, community building, public wellness, and overcoming obstacles. We discussed her tentative schedule during the Sun-Tue visit. She would like to meet informally with IU grad students in fields associated with her work. Donte and Gloria agreed to help plan this opportunity, perhaps through the Unity Summit. Michael clarified that it would need to be somewhat casual and not a formal workshop or speech. James noted that he attended the Unity Summit with Rev. Middlebrook and it was a great opportunity to have informal discussions with students over lunch.

New Business:

James said that at the last meeting, commissioners expressed interest in doing other projects throughout the year, such as speaking events or field trips with local youth, and asked Michael how we could go about funding these types of events (grants, fundraising). Michael said that if a grant was needed for funding, he would have to be the representative. He said he is happy to help facilitate the admin behind additional programming, but the bulk of the planning would need to be driven by the commission members. Michael noted that last year the group was asked to

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speak for the 40 Days of Peace Presentations, and only one commissioner stepped up to help. He suggested we feel out the interest among commission members for public speaking since that has been a challenge in the past. He applauded Gloria for a great presentation for the 40 Days of Peace, and said that she personalized it to really make it interactive for the kids. Other commission members said they would be more willing to help if they had additional prep/training. James proposed that we begin by expanding the 40 Days of Peace presentations this year as our additional outreach and Michael said he thinks if he has guaranteed presenters, he could arrange for us to speak at more schools.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan Enslow attended to present a new project he is working on. It is designed after the message on the importance of reading from MLK Keynote Speaker Adam Foss. He is hoping to start a new after-school program to build reading skills and critical thinking. If the program moves forward he would like the commission to help spread the word through our network. James asked that Dan provide a proposal once the initiative has more clarity and for details on how we can help support.

NAACP Update: Dianne announced that the Freedom Fund Banquet will take place on October 5 at Ivy Tech. This is the NAACP's only fundraiser for the year. NAACP is also partnering with CJAM for a project, and Bloomington United is holding a rally at the end of August on the Courthouse lawn. She will email details about these events as they come. James noted that he spoke with Bill Vance, who agreed to extend the deadline for the NAACP \$1,000 scholarships to August 30, and James is working to get the word out to recent graduates for this upcoming school year.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said that they are working on the Million Father March at Fairview, to be held on August 7. Volunteers have until July 31 to complete a background check with MCCSC.

Announcements:

- Gloria announced that Umoja Day will take place at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center on Friday, September 6 at 5:00. The event's purpose is to connect Black students, faculty and staff to the resources and services available to them on campus and within the Bloomington community. It is an event that features Black-owned businesses and vendors. We could table at the event if interested. Michael said he could send our materials and banner with Shatoyia Moss who will be tabling there.
- James announced that on Saturday August 3, Alpha Phi Alpha is hosting a community BBQ. 2-6 p.m. at Bryan Park, Woodlawn Shelter.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

October 23, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)

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