



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

Wednesday January 22, 2020

The meeting began at 5:09pm.

Commission Members: Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Donté Miller, Treon McClendon (phone), James Sanders

Associates: David Hummons

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Gloria made a motion to approve December minutes as written, Donté seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report:

- A. Last Meeting for Commissioners Debro and Miller: Michael announced that these two commissioners were stepping down and thanked them for their service. Donté said that after the event someone approached him about joining the commission and he encouraged them to apply.
- B. Finances: Michael shared that most of the bills will be paid in the coming weeks, and we will probably have just about the same balance as we began with before this year's fundraising. Right now the balance in the account is \$8332.13 and there will be approximately \$6500-7000 in expenses.

Old Business:

- A. **MLK 2020 Birthday Celebration in Review:** David noted that we had a good crowd considering all of the other events going on that day. Michael announced that the crowd totaled almost 400, but if you take away all of the performers and their associated guests the number was lower than last year. Michael shared some of his reflections and updates from the community: event pictures have been posted on Facebook and will continue to be throughout the week, all positive feedback from the community about the high quality of the program, particularly the artistic pieces and Dr. Abdullah's speech. Local Black Lives Matter organizers did approach Dr. Abdullah and CFRD to critique our lack of inclusion of their group in planning this event. City Council member Ron Smith approached Michael to ask about sponsoring the event next year. Michael encouraged all to continue using the QR code to fill out a survey (with contact info) so that he can award the free event tickets. James thanked Donté for helping introduce us to Dr. Abdullah. Commissioners thanked James for being the event emcee. Commissioners said that it worked well to alternate artistic pieces and speeches throughout the evening (community feedback supported this as well). Commissioners congratulated David for winning the Legacy Award. David said he was very surprised and honored. All thanked Michael for handling all of the behind-the-scene details for the event.

7 out of 10 Service Project reports have been returned, with the rest due on Friday. The volunteer numbers aren't as high as hoped, but were ok and more expected over the 40 Days of Peace. Michael and James visited several sites and were impressed with the work being done. Compassion Games offers a mapping system on their website for all projects.

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

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- B. **MLK Remembrance Day Planning:** James opened the floor to ideas. Gloria suggested collaborating with Alphas and other groups, and perhaps showing a film at the library. Michael will invite Elizabeth Gray from MCPL to our next meeting to discuss partnering and how they may be able to help facilitate a film screening. James will work on creating a proposal by then. Suggested film included *Eyes on the Prize*. Other ideas involved inviting past activists from SNCC and SCLC to come for a fireside chat. Inviting someone from Lyle Station or Clarence Boone who has been highly involved. David suggested we do something that addresses the critical point we are in culturally, and the fact that many walk with daily anxiety over issues such as voter suppression, mass incarceration, and disenfranchisement. James noted that part of our event is to make others aware of the sacrifices that have been made and how we can continue their work.

New Business: None

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: No update

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James shared some of the commission's upcoming projects: financial literacy initiative, youth summit in mid-March, and an upcoming conference in Indianapolis.

Announcements: Commissioners thanked Donté and Marcus for their service. They will be missed!

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 26, 2020 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)

March 25, 2020 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)

April 22, 2020 5:00-6:00 p.m. (McCloskey)