



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

Wednesday January 25, 2017

The meeting began at 5:05pm.

Commission Members: Nicole Griffin, Barbara Fuqua, Lily Kleinlein, Dennis Laffoon, Dianne Shewmaker, Mary Stephenson **Staff:** Michael Shermis **Associates:** Dan Enslow, David Hummons

Approval of Minutes: Dennis made a motion to approve the December minutes, Mary seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared participant feedback from the QR code/URL on the program. This was the first time asking for feedback in this way, and so far there has been a lot of great feedback. Michael passed out the Snapshot Report for Service for Peace. It highlights summaries, photos, testimonials of the projects. Bills and additional funding are continuing to come in, so the complete financial report will be given next month.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Review of MLK Celebration: Nicole thanked the commissioners for their help with the event. We shared thoughts of what went really well:

- Impressed with the Stages Play (message was timely, kids were really animated and excited, helped boost event attendance, many compliments on the play). Michael said they are trying to get the play out into the schools, and they are most likely interested in working with us again next year.
- Volunteer projects went well (tons of volunteers, well organized)
- IU Breakfast and Keynote speaker were great
- African American Choral Ensemble did a great job
- Keeping youth involved is very important (they are the future!). Michael had feedback that the kids in the audience were incredibly moved by Adam Foss's message.
- Rogers Elementary students came to sing civil rights songs from their service project prior to the event (it was a nice surprise, they were very passionate).
- The Mayor's office sent an email saying how inspired they were by our event and they were tweeting photos.
- Adam Foss's message was very precise and included easy to implement ideas on how to be an activist. Could we continue his message of action by sharing opportunities for our community to be more involved in volunteerism and social justice/activism? Participant responses indicated that many in attendance planned to continue volunteering because they had such a great day with the MLK Service Projects.
- The video projects that North and South put together were great.
- There were 450+ in attendance, significantly more than last year. Michael thinks that the youth involvement brought a crowd. Nicole said that several of the kids in the play go to Project School, which tends to draw a lot of support for their students.
- Food was great.

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City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk

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- Event held a lot of excitement. How can we carry this forward?

What could be improved?

- Was it too long? We had lots of new components, and the youth involvement keeps it energized and fresh.
- We could have a bigger push with service projects next year to invite their volunteers to the celebration
- There was a miscommunication between the Stages and the parents about when they could enter the theater.

B. 2018 Celebration Planning: Michael shared several names and media links for possible speakers next year, all of which came from the community via the participant survey. He also suggested we look up Tony Porter and his TED talk. Michael met him at a recent Domestic Violence Prevention Conference and he seemed interested in working with us. Michael said his TED talk is incredible- it focuses on putting the responsibility back on men to stop violence against women. We found out about Adam Foss last year through Porter, and he seems willing to negotiate on cost.

Michael said that for the 25th anniversary of our city MLK celebrations, he is going to check with CATS about putting together a montage of all of our previous keynote speakers. Dan suggested creating a DVD of all of the keynotes and selling it as a fundraiser for our program.

C. 40 Days of Peace Presentations: There is a whole day of presentations at Montessori School tomorrow. Nicole and Michael will present. Nicole attended a presentation at the middle school last week and thought that the students were bored because they'd seen it before. She proposed a revamp or having new presenters to bring new energy to the program. Dennis thought it would be a good way to expand our reach in the community.

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males: David said that they discussed an incident regarding a letter the principal of Jackson Creek sent out to families of African American students. They plan to address it as a group and individually.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: Dianne announced that NAACP has a new president, Jim Simms.

Announcements:

-David and Dan are recruiting students to be involved in their project. Nicole said that IU's Themester might tie in.

-Nicole thanked Barbara for her many years of service and involvement with the commission. This will be her final meeting as a Commissioner. Thank you, Barbara!

-Michael promoted the media gallery on the MLK Commission website--it is full of videos, articles, information from the Interfaith Service, photos, etc.... This is a great way to highlight the success of our celebration and day of service.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 22, 2017

March 22, 2017

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