



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

Wednesday February 22, 2017

The meeting began at 5:01pm.

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Nicole Griffin, Lily Kleinlein, Reggie Johnson, Mary Stephenson

Staff: Michael Shermis **Associates:** Dan Enslow, David Hummons

Approval of Minutes: Marcus made a motion to approve the January minutes, Lily seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared that after all event expenses paid we have \$570.23. There is a donation from United Way for \$250 still on its way. He also said that the agency which funds Service for Peace is likely to be cut by the Federal Government this year. Michael is working with his department on whether our Facebook page can promote advocacy against this cut.

Michael handed out a new brochure with the responses from the MLK Day of Service Participate Survey. It includes pictures, feedback, information about our events, and information about our supporters. He is going to share this at a future staff meeting for CFRD since this was the first attempt by the city to use an evaluation survey for an event, showing the value of our programming. He considers the piece a great advertisement as we seek funding sources in the future. He already has a couple of companies he will approach about sponsoring our service initiatives because of the likely cut in public funding.

Michael said that CFRD would love for us to be involved with more events throughout the year. There may be an opportunity next fall to cosponsor an event with Tony Porter. We could also honor MLK on the assassination date of April 4. Some expressed the importance of commemorating the day in a positive way. Marcus noted that Elm Street is by the Banneker Center- could we rename the portion of the street alongside Banneker MLK Street? Play games and offer an event to celebrate with families at Banneker. Even if we made a temporary sign that day, we could do it with the intent to make the change permanent eventually. Nicole suggested a discussion about the assassination, why it would have happened in that era, how parents talk to their kids about difficult topics, etc. All agreed to move forward with an event on that date, but not everyone is able to attend. Mary asked that we avoid a panel discussion because that isn't very family-friendly. Lily suggested modeling it after MCPL's MLK event- book reading, crafts, music. Marcus said that Banneker is already great at these programming pieces so we could connect with them. Mary is able to help with prep for the event. Michael is going to check with Banneker about the date and with the city about the process for renaming a street, even just temporarily. Commission members should send activity ideas to Michael. We will need to act quickly on some of these ideas before our March meeting.

Old Business:

- A. 2018 Celebration Planning:** Michael said that the CATS video montage of the past celebrations is in process. When it is finished (17 years' worth of speeches, performances, and service projects!), it will be about 10 minutes long and we can show it at the 25th celebration. We still need to discuss a keynote for next year.

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

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New Business:

A. Elections: Mary nominated Marcus for Chair. Marcus nominated Mary for Vice Chair. Mary nominated Lily for Secretary. Lily made a motion to approve the slate as listed, Mary seconded. All approved. Michael asked if we could consider a new day and/or time because Dennis and Marcus need to leave early on Wednesdays. Reggie would struggle to make a 4:30 meeting, but all others said that 4:30 works well on Wednesdays. We will move our meetings to 4:30-5:30pm beginning in March.

B. Commissioner Emeritus: Nicole recognized David Hummons for being a faithful member of the commission for many years. Because of his dedicated service, he has been appointed as Commissioner Emeritus! David said that the Commissioners and City employees he worked with throughout the years have been incredible. His goal has always been to serve and to carry forward the legacy of Dr. King. Thank you, David!

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males: David announced that there is a new Diversity Committee at MCCSC as a result of the letter that went out to Jackson Creek students and their families.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: No announcements.

Announcements:

-Marcus announced that he missed the last meeting because he was in DC. During his trip he visited the new African American Smithsonian Museum. In the museum, he learned about early IN African American settlers to Lyles Station in the southern part of the state. Marcus and his wife went to the settlement when they returned home and they really enjoyed the experience. It honors the history, represents historical life in Lyles Station.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 22, 2017 4:30-5:30pm

April 26, 2017 4:30-5:30pm

May 24, 2017 4:30-5:30pm