



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

Wednesday March 22, 2017

The meeting began at 4:35pm.

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Nicole Griffin, Lily Kleinlein, Reggie Johnson, James Sanders

Staff: Beverly Calender-Anderson, Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Nicole made a motion to approve the February minutes, Reggie seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared several updates and Beverly Calender-Anderson visited our meeting. Beverly said that the Mayor asked if the police can send officers to help with our April 4 event, and all agreed that it would be a great addition. Beverly thanked the commission members for our service. She is looking ahead to next year, which is the city's bicentennial and also the 50th anniversary of MLK's assassination. She announced that we will be getting a survey in early April asking for our feedback about our experience as commissioners.

Michael said that Service for Peace is requiring hand signed in-kind donation reports, which is creating additional work. He is also having issues large discrepancies between reported volunteers/hours and the numbers reported through the BVN online registration. The difference is up to 40% off. We will be requesting a second round of feedback from the organizations, asking how we can improve or streamline the registration for volunteers. A couple of issues with the current system: it seems to be difficult for group registration and youth registration.

Old Business:

- A. 2018 Celebration Planning:** Michael noted that there are tasks that we should begin considering for next year's event. We asked the community for ideas for keynote speaker, but most of them were outside of our range regarding fees (Michelle Obama, Deepak Chopra, etc...). It was already a big stretch for us last year to bring Adam Foss. Michael is suggesting we look for someone well within our range, and someone from Indiana would be even better to save on travel expenses. He asked Commission members to find several suggestions prior to the next meeting and send those his way. We also considered how to continue to expand youth involvement. Last year was incredibly successful with the Rogers/Binford singing outside, the Stages play, and the videos that North and South put together. Michael suggested we stick with this formula for a couple of years as long as it stays successful, because it did increase our numbers by over a hundred community members. Marcus suggested next year we take more initiative to preview the Stages play and others agreed that having Stages attend our meeting, give us more opportunities to be involved, avoiding competitions with their other programming, etc., would make it run even more smoothly. Michael noted that they came in more than \$100 under budget for the play.

New Business:

- A. Commission on the Status of Black Males Appointment:** Nicole moved that we approve James Sanders to be our appointment to the Commission on the Status of Black Males, Lily seconded. All approved. He will begin attending their meetings next month.

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

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- B. MLK Remembrance Planning, Budget, etc.:** We are moving forward with an event commemorating MLK on the anniversary of his death (April 4). Michael shared flyers and asked Commission members to hand them out around town. Reggie had some students ask about opportunities for involvement at this or other city events. Lily contacted two groups to volunteer at the event, one being Blacks in Government at Crane (BIG). Michael sent out a press release. The event will include various activities for families. One room will be a reading room (BIG), one room will be a craft room (GROUPS), and a historical timeline activity. The event will begin with remarks from the Commission, a proclamation from someone from the City, refreshments, and then the activities. Several commission members said they would attend the event. Nicole made a motion to approve \$250 to spend on this event (food and supplies), Reggie seconded, all approved.

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males: No announcements.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: No announcements.

Announcements:

-Debra Vance asked Michael to share that Phyllis Lugger (the mother of past Commission associate Amy Cohn) wanted to commend the Commission on good work and that Amy really enjoyed working with the Commission.

-We discussed several events related to diversity coming up in the week ahead, at IU, Ivy Tech, and MCCSC. Nicole said that the IU Themester topic will be Diversity next fall. We might be able to partner in some way.

-Marcus met with CFC about possibly getting involved with historical rehabilitation of an AME church in Springs Valley, and Lyles Station. They were interested. Nicole suggested looking into Lyles Station about whether they have anyone who might be a possible keynote for next year's celebration event. We may be able to partner with IU because they are looking to celebrate African American History in Bloomington as part of the bicentennial celebration.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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