



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

**Wednesday April 26, 2017**

The meeting began at 4:30 p.m., with introductions.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Nicole made a motion to approve the March minutes, Lily seconded, all approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael shared that he and Bet Savich are meeting with IUCU and ONB to build opportunities for MLK Day events next year. This might help with a funding shortfall from Community Foundation, Service for Peace, etc... They discussed ways to create mutually beneficial partnerships between the financial institutions and community activities and organizations (whether volunteer oriented through “signature projects,” professional service share, or sponsor opportunities) for MLK Day or the 40 Days of Peace. ONB seemed especially interested in projects related to diversity and inclusion. Lily thanked Michael and said that many organizations are facing budget challenges now and it is great that Michael is reaching out to them early as they plan their budgets for next year.

**Old Business:**

- A. 2018 Celebration Planning:** Michael shared a list of suggested speakers for next year. Marcus highlighted the recommendation that came from Nicole, Stanley Madison. He’s from Lyles Station in Southern Indiana and could talk about the history of freed slaves who moved to southern Indiana. Reggie and Lily said that Madison would be a good choice because it has been a few years since we’ve had a historic keynote. Nicole agreed and said it could enlighten many to a lesser known part of local history, especially in the year of the bicentennial. Michael will reach out to Madison, asking about availability, cost, and also narrowing down possible speaking topic. We also discussed a few other potential keynotes: Beverly and Marcus were impressed with Derek Greenfield who came to speak at MCCSC. James recommended Rev Harold Middlebrook from Knoxville, TN who worked alongside MLK. Lily recommended Tim Wise, although he was just at Ivy Tech this spring. David asked about local “up and comers” and Marcus mentioned Julius Hanks. Michael will investigate these additional suggestions.

In addition to the keynote speaker, Michael asked if we would like to invite African American Choral Ensemble to perform again. All agreed that we would like to have them at the event again. Michael said that the youth involvement is on track for next year: all Rogers 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students performing outside of BCT during the reception, Stages play, and the video projects by both high schools.

**New Business:**

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

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**A. MLK Remembrance Discussion:** We discussed the event. Nicole thought it went really well, especially for a first time event- difficult to get people to attend if it isn't on their radar. She also thought we could do more to get the invitation out to the schools. Lily agreed and said that the activities went as well as could be, volunteers were great, and met the needs of many generations even though we'd originally planned them with younger kids in mind. James said that he enjoyed the activities but wasn't sure that the kids knew where to find the various activities. Marcus was slightly disappointed that there weren't more people there. Michael said that we did have about 35-40 people. We discussed changes for next year. David said that April is a busy month. Marcus said that we could consider a Freedom Walk on the B-Line. All agreed that we should make an actual sign (even if it is just temporary) for that day in renaming the street. Michael said that Beverly has been doing a lot of research into what other cities do to name honorary streets. Some cities use different color signs, others get sponsorships. Will get more updates as that progresses.

**Liaison Reports:**

**A. Commission on the Status of Black Males:** James reported that last week they had a Barber Shop Health Screening and it was a great success. Had about 20 people come to get screened for HIV, Diabetes, Cholesterol, Cancer Education, and Blood Pressure, as well as wellness education and health insurance planning. They look forward to growing the event next year. At the last meeting they began the process of deciding which initiatives they want to focus on for the next year.

**B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP:** No announcements.

**Announcements:**

Dan and David shared that the Noah's Ark Interfaith project is going well so far. They have 11 groups meeting once per month. The participants have shared that they are pleased with how rich the experience has been. They expect it to be a 5-6 month commitment. Building trust and familiarity takes time. The planning group is still meeting to discuss how to keep the program growing. They would like to see the group become more diverse on all fronts.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

May 24, 2017 4:30-5:30 p.m.