

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting

Wednesday January 27, 2016

Commission Members: Bruce, Ervin, Nicole Griffin, David Hummons, Lily Kleinlein, Dianne Shewmaker

Associates: Dan Enslow **Staff:** Michael Shermis

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: David made a motion to approve the December minutes as written, Dianne seconded, all approved.

Staff Liaison Report: Michael handed out the Snap Shot Report that gets turned in to Service in Peace. It included numbers for those involved/impacted by the projects and highlights of several projects in detail. He discussed that the weeks since MLK Day have been very busy with reports and follow up. The MOU/PO process was much more complicated this year with the transition to a new mayor on Jan.1. As a result, payments will go out much later than usual. With the new and neater processes in place, it will be much more efficient next year. He will be creating more reports in the coming month: Service for Peace, Community Foundation, Service Indiana, and a financial report with all of the information and receipts from the agencies. Michael shared all of this to highlight how much has to go on behind the scenes in order to handle the processing of these large grants.

Templeton requested a 40 Days of Peace Presentation, but they haven't followed up yet with details. Bloomington Montessori School had three presentations and the Jackson Creek one was cancelled due to weather.

We received another \$550 donation from a collection taken at an Interfaith Celebration held in honor of MLK Day. They had a gathering with 17 faith communities. Michael expects that we will have approximately \$1250 left after all expenses are paid. This will be approximately \$1500 less than we had last year. There were a few unexpected costs: increase in BCT rental, catering price increase, had to hire a car to take our speaker to the airport, and graphic design costs for our programs. Next year fund raising efforts will need to go up in order to make up the difference.

Old Business:

Birthday Celebration Review: We discussed the reception. Lily suggested reviewing the cost of food for the reception and that might be an area we could change, offering a smaller spread. Nicole thought this might work and suggested Birthday Cake, but others felt the reception is so well received that we should not change the format. Dan suggested collecting \$5 donation to cover costs, Bruce suggested finding a sponsor for the reception. Michael said that this year we seemed to order just the right amount of food. All agreed that the reception was well received and that it brings people in early for the event.

We discussed the program. Lily thought that our speaker was great and said that for the past few years we've had speakers who bring a historic perspective and this was a new, fresh feel. She enjoyed all of the artistic performances and thought the flow of the event was great.

David thought the attendance was low and wondered if it had to do with the cold weather, lack of name recognition with our speaker, or lower number of people from IU. Michael said he would have assumed 300+ people in attendance and can ask the BCT if they have a count. Nicole thought we had a good number of students, and said people might have been tired after volunteering all day.

Dianne said she really liked Soledad O'Brien at the IU breakfast. She added that she could recognize that Brittany was really dynamic but had a hard time following her. David felt that she was fiery and thought that we had a younger crowd because of it. Nicole said that during Dr. King's time, the leaders were all about Brittany's age, so it was neat to have someone young and be able to imagine where she might go from here. Bruce agreed that he liked having someone who is in the forefront of change right now. He truly appreciates the historical presentations we've had before, but added that this was a fresh and current perspective. David appreciated that she said the civil rights movement was never about having fun- it was necessary, but dangerous.

David would like to include another artistic piece in next year's event. Others agreed. Lily said that she thought that the time the officials are speaking seems to drag on. Michael said he asks them to stick to 3-5 minutes, and Bruce said we should encourage them to keep their remarks to 3 minutes or less.

David would like to highlight the Legacy Award more than we did to really honor the winner. He suggested we ask the winner to make a few comments. Lily agreed, but said we would want to let them know in advance so they can prepare remarks. We discussed where the award is presented in the program. Dan said that having the award right before the keynote builds up the excitement toward the speaker. Nicole suggested we discuss possible changes to the format at a future meeting.

David felt the program ended too early, but others said that they like that it was shorter. Attendees seemed energized and many stayed after for 20+ minutes to talk with each other and with Brittany. Michael said we get lots of compliments if we keep the event to 90 min. or less.

Nicole summarized that it was a good program and we have some good talking points for next year.

New Business:

Next Year- Speaker and Youth Involvement Michael said that we should discuss how to include youth in the program next year by framing it as: What is our desired outcome and how can we get the youth involved with an initiative that leads to that outcome? He reminded everyone that we decided not do another contest, video or otherwise. Nicole agreed and said we ended up with youth involvement in many great ways: reading of the Peace Pledge, a youth choir, and youth volunteers as ushers. All agreed that the schools have a lot going on and we can't depend on them to be the driving force behind the youth involvement, as we expected them to be with the contests. Nicole said that everyone should bring their ideas on youth involvement to the next meeting. She also asked everyone to bring keynote speaker ideas to the February meeting. Michael agreed and said that many people are already making commitments two years out.

Liaison Reports:

NAACP: Dianne had to leave early, so there was no report.

Commission on the Status of Black Males: David said that the January meeting included a discussion about a local incident where a young woman falsely accused someone of sexual assault. The Commission is drafting a letter to the Commission on the Status of Women to ask if they would like to make a joint statement about the incident and the potential damage such situations can cause for all involved and for the community. They are still working on other initiatives, such as health fairs and how to involve youth and young professionals in the Commission's work.

Announcements:

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.