



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

MLK Commission Monthly Meeting, Wednesday May 26, 2016

The meeting began at 5:07 pm.

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

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

Old Business:

A. Youth Involvement, Stages Update: The contract has been reviewed and been sent to Stages Bloomington for their signature.

B. Focus Group on Process Improvement, Collaboration: Lily and Michael shared about the focus group with grant recipients and other supporters. The meeting addressed the large administrative load the volunteer service projects require, the possible issue of loss of funding from some of our past supporters, and a discussion on whether we should be guiding groups to have more targeted service projects, either in scope or topic, so that they are more impactful and related to Dr. King's legacy. The proposal Michael shared would ask that projects address a number of MLK legacy topics: advocacy, poverty, incarceration, youth. He also mentioned "signature projects," or larger projects that would serve many volunteers for maximum impact. These larger projects might be beneficial if we find that we have a large drop in funding and need to engage many volunteers with fewer funds. He suggested we spend the summer discussing how we might refine the project requirements and spend time seeking community partners. Commission members discussed the ideas and several expressed concerns about making changes. Particularly questioned were the larger projects replacing smaller groups. Michael clarified that he isn't suggesting larger projects alone, but projects with a larger scope of impact. Most commissioners supported the idea of a more guided focus for service projects and agreed to spend the next three regular meetings discussing this topic.

New Business:

A. Speakers: In addition to Dr. Bullard and Loretta Lynch, Michael sent information about Wes Moore. They are above the \$10,000 level so we would need to find sponsors for that amount. Michael will meet with DEMA and with their support he will reach out to individual schools or departments that might be interested in either Wes Moore or Dr. Bullard. Mary suggested that Michael ask Union Board, as they have a large budget for speakers. She thought they might be most interested in Wes Moore. If we aren't able to garner enough support for these speakers in time, Nichole asked Michael to stay in touch with some of our other options from last year. Dianne suggested Morris Dees, but he is booked this year.

B. Bethel AME Collaboration Event: Dan and David are still early in the planning, so no update was given.

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males (quarterly): David shared updates. They held a successful youth discussion at BHSN. The plan to coordinate more youth forums, and are seeking partners to collaborate on their other focus areas.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: Dianne announced that November 12 is the Freedom Fund Banquet.

Announcements:

Lily attended a planning meeting for a voter event, collaborating with the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs.

Dianne attended a city-sponsored active shooter training and said it was phenomenal.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.