



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

MLK Commission Monthly Meeting, Wednesday June 22, 2016

The meeting began at 5:09 p.m.

Commission Members: Nicole Griffin, Dennis Laffoon, Dianne Shewmaker, Mary Stephenson, Barbara Fuqua **Staff:** Michael Shermis **Associates:** Dan Enslow, David Hummons

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

Liaison Reports:

A. Commission on the Status of Black Males (quarterly):

David currently has no report regarding the Status of Black Males.

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP:

Dianne shared the sad news that past president of Mon. Co. NAACP, Clarence Gilliam, has died. His funeral was last week. David suggested that perhaps Mon. Co. NAACP might consider some type of memorial to Mr. Gilliam when meetings resume in the fall. Dianne mentioned again that the Freedom Fund banquet is Nov. 12.

Announcements:

None

Old Business

Michael announced that the Stages update was that the contract has been signed. We wait now until they start their process.

New Business

A. Speakers:

Michael explained that the "offer sheet" for Adam Foss has been received. His cost is normally \$15,000, but the speaker's bureau said they will go to \$10,000 because this is the kind of engagements (local government) that Adam likes to do. But they will not book him for us until we raise a deposit of \$5000. Michael is going to try to get them to reduce his total cost to maybe \$8500. He does not expect they will go lower than this. If we want him, fund raising must begin right away. Michael is hoping to go after IU and Ivy Tech, regarding funding. Rafi and Michael will meet with Chris Gaal after Michael returns from his vacation, to see if Prosecutor's office might be interested in helping with the funding. Nicole stated that we need to make the fund raising as broad as possible. Michael stated that we need to raise \$10,000 in NEW money. Should someone else come up with money to schedule him at this time, we will lose him. We are hoping that the IU Law School and Dept. of Criminal Justice might want to help with some funding to bring Foss here, as well. New fiscal year begins in a week: July 1.

Dianne made the motion to pursue Adam Foss as our 2017 speaker, seconded by Dennis, all approved.

Nicole stated that we must come up with a Plan B for a speaker if we are not able to get Adam Foss. Three candidates for speaker that we had previously considered were: Marie Johns, SPEA grad; Sheryl Cashin, law professor/author and parents were civil rights activists; and Janae Nelson, Assoc. Director of the Legal Defense Fund at NAACP. Mary stated



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that her preference would be Cashin, Nelson, and Johns... in that order. Dennis made the motion that Sheryl Cashin be our Plan B choice, should we not be able to attain Adam Foss. Mary seconded this motion, all approved.

Michael announced that IU has suggested a potential co-sharing arrangement for the work/logistics, every other year. The funding formula would remain the same, with IU picking up the lion's share as they want to ensure they always get an "A Lister." Michael stated he will be doing the work with contracts, etc., anyway, so this might be a good avenue to pursue.

B. Focus Group on Process Improvement, Collaboration:

The last 10 minutes or so of the meeting was delegated to a criteria discussion for MLK-funded projects. Commissioners were divided up into twos for this activity and shared ideas afterwards regarding ideas from each two-some.

Consensus was reached that King's principles needs to play a greater role in the criteria for selecting grant awardees. Here's a rough order for how the criteria should play out in the grant applications:

- King principles (social justice, nonviolence, beloved community, reciprocity, franchising of the marginalized)
- Education
- Families
- Multiple agency collaborations
- Longer-term volunteer commitments

Some specific questions that might be asked for them to answer in their application:

- How does it tie to MLK mission/embrace MLK?
- How many benefit from project (not just how many volunteers does it utilize)?
- What relationship does it create to ongoing service?
- What opportunities are there for service beyond 40 Days

One other major possibility to consider is for there to be a theme for the day of service. Here are some possibilities:

- Disadvantaged youth
- Advocacy
- Poverty
- Incarceration

We agreed to continue to the discussion at our next meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm. Next meeting will be July 27 at 5 pm, same location. Dennis announced that he will not be able to be at the next meeting due to being out of town.