



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

**Wednesday July 27, 2016**

The meeting began at 5:20pm.

**Commission Members:** Marcus Debro, Nicole Griffin, Lily Kleinlein, Dianne Shewmaker, Mary Stephenson

**Staff:** Michael Shermis, Savannah Wormley **Associates:** Dan Enslow, David Hummons, Debra Vance

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, before a quorum was present, we reviewed the MLK Commission history timeline. It highlights the history of Dr. King's life and the commission and is nearly ready to go live on the website. This was built by Savannah Wormley, the MLK Commission intern this past year. Thank you, Savannah!

Rafi Hasan, Safe and Civil City Director, discussed a possible collaboration for next February's Black History Month. Commission members were interested in learning more and connecting with their planning committee.

**Staff Liaison Report:** No report.

**Old Business:**

**A. Youth Involvement (Stages and Video Projects):** The call-out date has been announced for Stages. Nicole asked that Michael send out the date as well as any information about what is required to audition so that we can help with outreach to get the word out to more local youth. Michael is still attempting to connect with representatives from MCCSC about the possibility of students making a video of the service projects on MLK Day but nothing has been finalized.

**B. Modified Project Criteria:** Michael brought a draft of the service day project RFP, with possible modifications based on last month's discussion. The first major change is that three or more organizations collaborating for a larger project (more volunteers, greater impact) would be eligible for more funding than any individual group. An example he shared was using the Interfaith Celebration as a kickoff for a collaborative service project between various faith communities in town. He has already spoke with representatives of the group that organizes the Interfaith service. Since St. Mark's does many projects now, they are discussing rolling it under that umbrella. Michael expects the collaborative projects will be a bit more work for him trying to do planning before applications go out and at the mandatory meeting which project managers must attend before applying (this is the second major change). He hopes this will provide opportunities to suggest partnering based on similar themes or project types. Lily asked if there would be time between when applications come in and the funding decision to help groups create these partnerships, and he said yes. There would also be a second session after receiving grant funding. The first meeting would be about the project ideas (and could lead to collaborations); the second meeting, all about logistics and documentation, is required. He expects this second meeting to save a lot of hassle in January/February follow up. The final change was that we are suggesting all projects closely connect to a variety of MLK related themes (such as social justice, beloved community, nonviolence).

We discussed whether the new criteria would be a barrier to applying. All agreed that it is worth the extra effort to have projects more closely tied to MLK, projects that offer long term collaborations and impact, that writing for this type of

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

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grant is great practice for nonprofits, and that we aren't really asking that much more than usual. Also, we have confirmation that our funding from the Community Foundation is decreased this year to just \$5,000 (down from \$12k) and in 2018 we will not receive funding from them at all. There are other grant sources in question this year, so added criteria may prove very helpful in narrowing down which projects we are able to fund. All agreed to move forward with the new application.

**C. Speaker and Fundraising:** We have an accepted offer and the contract is now in the negotiating phase! Adam Foss agreed to be our speaker for \$8500 (down from \$10k originally suggested). We need to raise 50% of the funding by October 3 and the rest by the end of the year. Michael has a list of local residents and IU groups he is contacting to ask for support in order to raise the funds needed. He asked for commissioners to do follow up with each of them. Commission members and associates volunteered to reach out. Michael will cc each volunteer when he emails the possible donor and then we can do the follow up a day or two later. He provided a template to use. So far we've received support from: CFRD (\$1,000), Ivy Tech (\$500), Griffin Realty (\$500), the Human Rights Commission (\$250), and IU (amount unknown).

**New Business:**

**A. Bethel AME Collaboration Event:** Dan and David are planning an event for the week of September 11. They hope the event will address new visions of peace in the world and might collaborate with faith communities, academia, and local community groups. They might partner with Bloomington United 2.0. Michael, David, and Debra are all involved with Bloomington United 2.0. Nicole asked David to present in August how we might be able to support this event.

**Liaison Reports:**

**A. Commission on the Status of Black Males (quarterly):** David shared updates. In light of the recent conflicts, the group discussed law enforcement and citizen engagement with local agencies. David said that leaders from local law enforcement and the court system asked to be involved with the discussion. He recognized that there are sometimes discrepancies between the discussing of these issues and what is actually taking place in communities, but said it was a positive step that our local agencies asked to be part of the discussion.

**B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP:** No update this month.

**Announcements:**

None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.