



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

Wednesday December 14, 2016

The meeting began at 5:08pm.

Commission Members: Marcus Debro, Nicole Griffin, Barbara Fuqua, Lily Kleinlein, Dennis Laffoon, Dianne Shewmaker, Mary Stephenson **Staff:** Michael Shermis **Associates:** David Hummons, Debra Vance

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

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared several updates. Two people are up for renewal on the commission. Barbara and Lily must re-apply online if interested in continuing as commissioners. The first meeting with grant recipients took place and most groups were in attendance. We still don't know whether we received funding from Serve Indiana, so it was a little disheartening for some of the agencies who didn't get full funding or got less than previous years. A couple of agencies indicated they may be unable to participate because they didn't receive enough funding to complete their projects with the number of volunteers promised. Another issue is that we do not have a graphic designer for the program. Michael is working to find a designer who is compatible with the regulations of the City.

Old Business:

A. Fund Development Efforts: Michael gave a fund development update. We received more donations and promised donations (\$1000) since the last meeting. There is still a great need for funding for the event and speaker costs. We had an existing balance of \$1,000, we raised \$7,360 so far, and we have an estimated \$1,600 coming in. The costs to bring Adam Foss are \$8,250 and the rest of the expenses are \$3,250. We have at least \$2,000 left to raise before the end of January. Debra is going to follow up with a couple of potential donors, Nicole has another meeting at IU, and Michael has a list of additional businesses to contact.

B. Social Media Plans: Michael said that the social media plan has grown more extensive and has already begun.

C. PSAs: Dennis recorded his PSA and he said it was quite easy. He suggested that other readers include Michael as the contact for more information.

D. Program and Emcee Script Review: Dennis will be the emcee at the event, and the script is not much different from last year. Michael shared a draft of the program. We have confirmed Rev. Stacey Gehring to give closing words. Nicole asked Michael to check with Stacey on how she would like her name presented on our program. We still need someone to introduce the keynote and give greetings from IU. There is a possibility that one person might do both. The City would like to promote Black History Month and Michael is working to coordinate the message- it will likely tie into "Her-Story" (the importance of women in the civil rights movement).

New Business:

A. School Presentations: Michael asked commission members to give 40 Days of Peace presentations using a script and DVD. So far the only school asking for a presentation is Jackson Creek, and they need someone at 8:00am on January 17th. Nicole said that the presentations are easy and fun. Volunteers should reply to Michael if interested.

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

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk

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B. Legacy Award: Michael said we have one nomination so far. The nominations are due early January, and we will need to choose the winner over email. We discussed the benefits of choosing as an entire commission or as a smaller group. Most agreed that the whole commission should have the opportunity to share their feedback, so Michael will send commission members all of the nominations to review as soon as the deadline passes.

C. Poster Distribution: Michael brought posters for commission members to take, and also passed around a list of location posters need to get to. Commission members signed up to help.

D. Catering and Reception: Michael asked if the commission would like to go with the same catering as we did last year, One World. Michael said he always receives positive feedback about their food. All agreed to go with One World again, but to discuss the topic of catering earlier next year so that we can consider other options. Mary made a motion that we accept a budget of \$3,250 for the event expenses, to include catering, the African American Choral Ensemble, Stages Bloomington, the flight/hotel for the speaker, the volunteer stickers, and other costs that come up. Lily seconded. All approved.

E. Volunteer Registration: Michael shared that the BVN has a brand new platform, and wants all volunteers to register. In the past, groups have signed up as a group but this year each volunteer will need to register separately. The individual registrations will ensure that all volunteers have signed a waiver, it will allow for easier and more accurate tracking and reporting of volunteers, and both the agency and the BVN will be able to follow up with volunteers about future opportunities for involvement. Michael asked that commission members also register on the site, as volunteer photographers and as volunteers for other projects if interested. Michael passed around a spreadsheet with tasks for the celebration and commission members signed up to help.

Liaison Reports:

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

B. Monroe Country Branch of NAACP: N/A

Announcements:

-David offered to volunteer at the MLK Celebration in any way we need help.

-Michael is still negotiating with Bloomington North about the help with photos/videos of volunteer projects.

-5:30 on Dec. 19 is the Stages dress rehearsal, which commission members are invited to attend.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 25, 2017

February 22, 2017

March 22, 2017

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