

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

**Wednesday July 22, 2020**

The meeting began at 5:03 p.m. via Zoom call

**Commission Members:** Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Treon McClendon, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

**Associates:** Dan Enslow

**Staff:** Michael Shermis

**Approval of Minutes:** Dianne moved to approve the June 24 minutes as written, Gloria seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** All updates listed below.

**Old Business:**

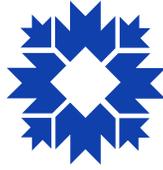
- A. 2021 MLK Speaker Selection:** Michael shared that the potential speaker, Khalid el-Hakim just confirmed that he is available and so the negotiation process will begin. It will have to go forward with a dual-track (in-person or virtual). Michael is working on an event in October and at this point it is a hybrid gathering. He doesn't anticipate any details at this stage that would be non-refundable, such as the rental of BCT. The other big unknown for January is whether there will be money for service projects.

**New Business:**

- A. Fall Event (Gloria/Lily Proposal):** As promised at the last meeting Michael, Gloria, and Lily have been working over email to determine what type of project we could focus on this fall. After investigating the cost of presenting a film, Michael contacted Ryder Film Series and they are eager to partner with the commission. Gloria shared details of the proposal: a film screening (probably in October) of "Black Power Mixtape" with a facilitated round table discussion/panel following. Switchyard Park would accommodate potential distancing requirements at the indoor/outdoor pavilion. Because it is a city property we would not have to pay for the usage, and Michael noted that the park is easily accessible and comfortable. The movie would cost \$250 to screen and there would be a potential of purchasing up to \$100 of supplies like refreshments. Ryder would help with the publicity through their usual outlets. The event would be free and open to the public. Dianne motioned to approve a \$350 budget to continue planning this fall movie event. Lily seconded. All approved. James asked for suggestions on date and Dianne shared that the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet is on 10/17. Lily and Gloria suggested starting at 2:00- after lunch and it will still be full daylight in case of cool weather. All agreed to check into Saturday, 10/24 with a backup date of 10/25 at 2pm if possible. Dan asked about Farmer's Market and Michael said he would check the times.
- James asked what the educational component would look like. The movie is 1 hr 40 min, with the potential of 20-40 minutes of additional programming after. Gloria shared that we would start with small group dialogue/pre-set questions and it could give opportunity for various commissioners and community leaders to facilitate. After the small groups, we could go a couple of directions. One would be a panel with the facilitators. Another idea was to focus the round table on actionable items for our community and have a group-share after 20 minutes of collaboration. James said that this would be a great way to keep the event more interactive. Lily asked about how we would pay for the event. Michael noted that while we can afford with the current funds in

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our account, he anticipates fundraising this year will be a challenge and suggested we seek specific support for this project. Gloria suggested RSVPs and asked that we consider ways to make sure the commission's involvement is in the forefront- James suggested ordering T-shirts (out of our own pockets) to help with advertising and he has an idea of how we could get this printed. Michael said if we were individually paying he wouldn't need to work through the city to order. Michael suggested Shatoyia to help with the artwork.

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** Dan commended the commission for moving forward with a new educational opportunity. He shared that despite the recent highlighted problems, there are a lot of positives for our community and called out the Commission on the Status of Black Males particularly for their good work. Noah's Ark Initiative is hosting an event this weekend and Michael will share on the FB Page.

**NAACP Update:** Dianne announced that the Freedom Fund Banquet will be Saturday, October 17. NAACP put out a letter of response about what happened to Mr. Booker on the weekend of July 4. The Herald Times did not publish the letter so they sent it to other news sources instead. The next meeting is August 4. Lily asked if Dianne could send the Zoom links out to all of the Commissioners and Gloria recommended we all be involved where and when we can.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said they received word that they won't be able to do the Million Father's March in August so instead they plan to show a video at the schools instead. The commission also released a video "Say Their Names" on the FB Page. They met with the police and created a path forward for programming/training and James is hopeful that could come to fruition in the next few months.

**Announcements:** Diane recommended participating in Bloomington United Against Hate and will send out the link to their next Zoom meeting. James thanked Michael, Gloria, and Lily on working on the proposal for the film showing. Dianne asked if we should plan for protests against our film showing. Michael said that it is likely that there would be subtle protection as with any public event, and if we hear of any specific threats that could be increased as needed.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at. 5:50pm.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

August 26, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

September 23, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (TBD: Zoom/McCloskey)

October 28, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (TBD: Zoom/McCloskey)

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