



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Wednesday May 27, 2020

The meeting began at 5:04 p.m. via Zoom call.

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

Associates: Dan Enslow, David Hummons, Debra Vance

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Gloria moved to approve the April 22 minutes as written, Lily seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report:

- A. Planning for a Potential Virtual Birthday Celebration in 2021:** Michael shared that we need to consider a contingency plan for a virtual celebration in January in case of continued limitations on group gatherings. Michael spoke with the speaker bureau he is working with and they confirmed that a virtual appearance would cost significantly less. This would mean for a virtual event we could potentially get a speaker that would normally be out of our price range, but within 3 months of the event we would need to decide for sure if we want to go forward with an in-person event. Virtually we would need to be creative on how to meld all of the components together. James suggested creating a film recording the usual portions of the event, and editing them together to be shown either virtually or in person. Gloria suggested Facebook Live or other ways that we can extend beyond the MLK holiday and reach a wider audience (social media challenges and other engagement initiatives) to reach a wider audience. Lily noted that IU has announced their plan for next school year and it doesn't have students in Bloomington between Nov.30-Feb.7, which will impact what we are doing. James asked that we come to the next meeting with ideas for a virtual event to continue planning both paths.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. 2021 MLK Speaker Selection:** James opened the conversation about potential speakers and commission members brought their top 3 choices. The top two choices were Khalid el-Hakim and David Pilgrim. There were three choices tied for third. Michael will reach out to the Speakers Bureau about el-Hakim and Pilgrim.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan shared information about the second wave of the 1918 flu and his concerns over planning an event for 2021, particularly a choral performance.

NAACP Update: Dianne shared that June 2 the meeting will be on Zoom. Commissioners asked her to share the invite.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James shared that in lieu of the Black Male Summit they will have an online series/social media campaign on issues that impact black youth.

Announcements: Gloria announced that this Saturday from 6-7 there will be a racial justice solidarity walk at the courthouse square, masks encouraged. They hope to get voter registration onsite. She will send out more information.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

June 24, 2020, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

July 22, 2020, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

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

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

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