



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

Wednesday September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 5:02 p.m. via Zoom

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

Associates: David Hummons, Dan Enslow

Staff: Michael Shermis

Approval of Minutes: Dianne moved to approve the August minutes as written, Lily seconded. All approved.

Staff Liaison Report: All updates in business items below.

Old Business:

- A. 2021 MLK Speaker Selection:** Michael said that the contract is in the speaker agency's hands; we are awaiting for their signature.

New Business:

- A. Fall Event Roundtable Discussion:** Gloria sent an email to the potential discussion leaders and so far Nicole Bolden, Donte Miller, Jennifer Crossley, Valerie Houghton-Motley, and Maqube Reese agreed to participate. Gloria and James are also willing to lead a group if needed. Michael said 11 people have RSVP'd so far and he asked all commissioners to RSVP. James asked Gloria to share her thoughts on the discussion topics. She said she envisioned sort of localized 'think tanks' so that people leave feeling empowered to address local issues. Others liked this idea of keeping the focus local and how individuals can become agents of change. Gloria suggested we break up tables by subject matter and Lily suggested having people choose their topics as they come in- picking pre-made placards so that all of the groups have participants. We discussed the format for the event and whether people will stay for the discussion at the end or if it needs to be at the start. A tentative schedule is as follows:
 - 2-2:15; Welcome and Intro of Commissioners (James)
 - 2:15-2:20; About the film/purpose of the gathering (Treon)
 - 2:20-3:50; Film
 - 3:50-4:10 Roundtable Discussions
 - 4:10-4:25; Sharing out; tangibles for agency
 - 4:25-4:30; Closing

Michael and CFRD staff and interns will make the popcorn in advance and all snacks will be prepared using all possible health precautions. Michael suggested we have a list of questions for each group to address. James asked that commissioners submit questions via email by October 5 and the remainder of the event planning will be via email. James asked about commissioners purchasing t-shirts to wear to the event. Lily and others agreed that they would be willing to purchase these.

Potential Table Topics: Civic Engagement, Community Resources, Youth Development, Education, Town and Gown Relationships. By Presenter: Civic Engagement (Nicole), Community Resources for Marginalized Families

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(Maqube), Education (Donte), Youth Engagement and Development (Jennifer Crossley), Town and Gown Relationships (Jim Sims).

- B. MLK Celebration Planning:** Michael said that he has to create 3 plans for how the event may go. Plan A: Normal Celebration Event. Plan B: Hybrid Event, some people present and the rest live-streamed. Plan C: All online/virtual event. Even Plan A will be very different (physical distancing likely, AACE will not be in session but are willing to give us a video, catering will not be the same). Currently the BCT only allows 100 people in the facility. He and his interns are investigating different platforms for live-streaming. He's already spoken to CATS and they are on board to help provide quality production value. Michael noted that we are at a big disadvantage with everything being up in the air. James suggested we move forward with a pre-recorded program, creating a video in advance. Michael said that the speaker's contract as written only covers a keynote given on MLK Day (live or streamed) and noted that pre-recorded is the least enticing for audience participation. Dan reminded the group that many of our regular attendees are in "high risk" categories for COVID. Lily said she's inclined to move to an online event based on our expected audience and community health. Treon said that the Governor just announced we are moving to Stage 5—a shift back to full capacity at group events. James thanked Michael for all of his work and asked if we could table the planning for the next meeting. Michael said he expects the City/County to issue more guidelines in the coming month.
- C. Service Project Funding:** Michael was told that funding will be available and the application will go out on October 1. If we have \$5,000 to distribute we will need to determine what criteria we will set up.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): Dan expressed his approval for our upcoming event because of the discussion piece, which could lead to a personal transformation and shift in awareness.

NAACP Update: Gloria said that NAACP created a couple of videos (on the FB Page and webpage)—intergenerational discussions on the importance of voting. James asked who to contact about receiving correspondence about NAACP locally and Gloria suggested reaching out to Debra Vance.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said they are focusing on a message about voting- registration and count down. They are also working with the police department on a couple projects.

Announcements:

- James congratulated Dr. Gloria Howell on her promotion as the Director of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. Congratulations!
- Michael said that the BPD Chief is willing to meet with groups/individuals and is seeking better community connection.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Upcoming Meetings:

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

November 18, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (TBD: Zoom)

December 2, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (TBD: Zoom)

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