



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION**

**Wednesday November 18, 2020**

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

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

**Associates:** Dan Enslow

**Staff:** Michael Shermis, Carla Flores (CFRD Intern)

**Approval of Minutes:** Gloria moved to approve the October 28 minutes as written, Dianne seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael reminded us that the Commission should hold 2021 elections in December. Two commissioners (Lily and James) need to reapply, by January 15 at the latest, to stay on. City Council has not approved any new members to fill the open seats, but Jess Davis from Montessori School put in an application. She contacted Michael to ask about whether we would do presentations for 40 Days of Peace via Zoom (specifically requested Gloria because she did such a great job with the students last year.) She mentioned that she would like to be more involved with the Commission and later applied.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. MLK Celebration Planning:**

**Program:** Michael shared the program draft over Zoom. The Commissioners discussed the program order. Most of the individual segments can be pre-recorded but there are others we will do live. We will space out the artistic pieces- 1 musical selection and 1 dance selection from Jacobs, 2 musical selections from AACE from their repertoire. They will not be performing the standards *We Shall Overcome* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. James has a suggestion that a person sing *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Others liked the idea, and several were in favor of paying this performer if possible. Michael and the CFRD staff/interns will take photographs of service projects and put it together for the recognition. Michael is fairly certain the Mayor, IU, and County will want to pre-record their parts. So far there haven't been any Legacy Award nominations. Michael says we will need to decide who will introduce the keynote speaker, who is an Activist, Historian, Musician. Gloria suggested Dr. Carl Darnell. Last year we decided on Rabbi Brian Besser to share the closing but he was unable at the last minute, so Michael asked if we would like to ask him to pre-record for this year. All agreed.

**Post Celebration Discussion:** Khalid El-Hakim suggested a secondary special event of 30-40 minutes for 50 or fewer people, a separate URL closed audience. Michael is working to determine the added cost for the speaker. Dan said that Noah's Ark has done some successful community discussions with small breakout groups (6-7 people each) and bringing it back together. Michael said that El-Hakim wants it to just be an intimate discussion, no breakouts. Dan followed up with the idea of hosting a second event one week later, coordinating with Noah's Ark to continue the discussion. James suggested that if Noah's Ark wanted to coordinate the secondary program, a Commissioner could probably attend as a representative but at this point it will be too difficult for the Commission to plan a second event.

**Streaming Format:** Michael noted that he is still determining the best streaming format. The current Webinar system could prevent interruptions but is strictly limited in the number of participants. The advantage of Zoom is that anyone can come, even those who live out of town and it doesn't have the hard limit. Michael asked if

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we should consider an RSVP system, and several were in favor of this. Lily expressed concern that the numbers may be lower this year, especially if there are barriers to attending like pre-registration. Carla is an IU RA and she agreed that it is going to be difficult to engage off-campus students this year. Gloria spoke with Monica Johnson, who is organizing a full day of online social justice conference in honor of MLK (and including all 8 campuses) and she is open to partnering with us to allow us to share our event or have the speaker be involved with their conference somehow. She asked Michael to invite El-Hakim to take part in IU's conference (greetings or otherwise), and said there will be a "big name" speaker involved (TBA) and our keynote speaker may want to take part to be able to connect with this person.

Budget: Michael shared that there are still many moving pieces, but it will likely be between \$500-750 more to bring our Keynote Speaker in virtually, leading to a \$4300-5000 budget total. In the account right now there is \$4,000. We need to raise a couple thousand at minimum. So far IU, CFRD have their standard contributions. A lot of expenses will be saved this year because the event is virtual.

- B. Service Project Funding:** Michael heard back this Monday that we will have \$5,000 of Service Project Funding. The late timing makes it more challenging for applicants due to the holidays. He's already reached out to organizations and many are facing challenges with being able to participate this year. At this point it doesn't look like there will be nearly as many applications.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):** Dan plans to send links to an online racial justice training he is part of.

**NAACP Update:** Gloria announced that the meetings are still taking place virtually. They had a spirited discussion after the election and look forward to a December meeting. New officers were elected for 2021.

**Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:** James said they did not meet last week and will be meeting tonight to plan a Cultural Christmas Drive-Thru Event and Toy Drive.

**Announcements:** The proposed December meeting time conflicts with the CSBM meeting, so we will meet at 4:30-5:30 on Wednesday, December 9.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

*\*December 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Zoom) New Day and Time\**

January 27, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

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

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