



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

Wednesday February 24, 2021

The meeting began at 5:02 p.m. via Zoom call. Attendees shared introductions.

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

Staff: Michael Shermis

Associates and Guests: David Hummons, Jess Davis, Dan Enslow

- Jess Davis attended as a potential commissioner. She is a teacher at Bloomington Montessori and has been involved with the 40 Days of Peace presentations, which sparked her interest into joining the Commission.

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

Staff Liaison Report: Michael shared all updates in the business below.

Old Business:

- A. Service Projects:** Michael noted that final reports are starting to come in, completed from AKA and Bloomington Community Orchard. He will prepare a full report prior to the next meeting with financial details, photos, and summaries. Two projects will be completed this Sunday (Noah's Ark and a Switchyard Cleanup).

New Business:

- A. Black History 101/Mobile Museum/Khalid el-Hakim:** Michael said that Dr. el-Hakim is interested in coming to Bloomington with his museum, and negotiations are in process. Right now the proposed schedule includes:
- Fly in Wed Sept. 8
 - Set up in city hall atrium Thu & Fri from 8-10 and then host groups (IU, Ivy Tech, MCCSC, etc) from 10-3 for 90 minute presentations and personalized tours (3 presentations per day). Depending on social distancing requirements, we could host up to 40 people at a time. This is conducive to the small group tours anyway.
 - Sat would be open for public walk through from 9-12. He would be available onsite to answer questions.

Michael said the cost for this would normally be \$12,500 + travel and lodging expenses but he is willing to come as low as \$6,500 for this event. The surplus MLK Celebration funding from 2021 is \$4,000 and Michael is already in discussion with Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center to partner for an extra \$2,000 (with the option to send various student groups through). This leaves around \$500, and we would not want to ask our usual celebration funders to give again.

The speaker's bureau suggested reaching out to the Muslim community for a potential partnership. James was apprehensive about reaching out to the Muslim community since we've never done so before. Lily suggested a Muslim IU student organization since they may be interested in the programming surrounding the museum. James suggested reaching out to another commission like the CSBM to become a partner. He and Michael will look into whether this would be a possibility. Gloria suggested reaching out to Blacks in Government (BIG), an entity at Crane. She's been in touch for her work at IU and BIG are interested in being part of the community outside of work. James works at Crane and really liked that idea, he will check into the possibility of a partnership. Michael will share our standard fundraising/partnership letter to James for BIG and Gloria for the

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

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Neal-Marshall Center. Dianne made a motion that we move forward to bring Dr. el-Hakim's Black History Mobile Museum to Bloomington in September and for Michael and commissioners to follow up with partnering to reach the \$6,500 required to do so. Lily seconded. All approved.

- B. Selection of 2022 Keynote Speaker:** Michael started the discussion for choosing next year's speaker for our MLK Birthday Celebration. He noted that the speaker's bureau we've been going through the past 2 years has been easy to work with, within our usual budget, and has numerous great speakers. He recommended that we look into their current selections as consideration for 2022. Outside of this list he will create, suggestions can be sent to Michael at any time. James submitted Dr. Eddie R. Cole, a Professor at UCLA who went to grad school at IU and recently released a book called "The Campus Color Line: College Presidents and the Struggle for Black Freedom." He is young, has notoriety in the community, and may be within our financial reach. Dan suggested Dr. Joy Degruue, author of "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome."

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: No updates.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James updated that the planned Black Male Youth Summit on March 4 will have to be postponed because of a miscommunication with MCCSC which led to missing an announcement deadline. The CSBM continues to host virtual discussions on issues related to race in our community, and he invited the MLK Commissioners to attend.

Announcements:

- Gloria announced a Virtual Black History Month Gala is planned for this Saturday at 6:00. All are invited to attend and she noted that a lot of work has gone into this year's virtual event. Tickets are available online via the BCT. They will announce the Outstanding Leader of Tomorrow and the Living Legend Awards.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

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

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