



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Tuesday September 28, 2021

The meeting began at 5:01 p.m. via Zoom call

Commission Members: Jess Davis, Lily Kleinlein, Malik McCluskey, James Sanders, Dianne Shewmaker

Staff: Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

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

Staff Liaison Report: Michael said that it has yet to be determined when we will go back to in-person meetings due to continuation of emergency orders at the state level, but it has been extended through at least October.

Old Business:

- A. Black History 101 Mobile Museum/Khalid el-Hakim:** Michael shared that there seemed to be a misunderstanding with the financial contract and we were billed for a rental car/gas. He followed up and confirmed that use of a rental car wasn't agreed upon, just a flat \$250 travel expenses + a per diem. Ultimately, the per diem would cover the cost so it all worked out in the end, bringing the total cost for the event to \$7350. There was not a formal evaluation of attendees, but Michael said that anecdotally feedback was across-the-board great. Jess said she would turn in feedback via email so that it could be shared with Dr. el-Hakim personally in case he needs it for grant funding. Malik asked how many groups attended (MCCSC, Harmony, and Bloomington United) and suggested that Michael send them a questionnaire.
- B. MLK Fund Development:** Michael shared that IU OVP-DEMA committed earlier than ever to \$2000 for the January event. There were a few unexpected snags for the IU funding from the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center that are holding up the processing from the Mobile Museum, but once that is settled he will have a better idea of where we stand financially for January. It is on his list to get letters out to potential funders in the next couple of weeks. There will be a double recognition for donors since last year's contributors were also recognized for the Black History Mobile Museum, an unexpected publicity boost for donors. Publicity will also start for the January event in the next few weeks. Malik asked for a list of who we connect with for funding. Michael agreed to share the list and said it makes a big difference when Commission members tag onto the letter with a personal note. He said that the personal touch tends to be the difference between a donation or not. He will send out a list for Commissioners to review soon.
- C. Curriculum Development:** Jess has given herself a deadline to finalize the lesson plans by the October board meeting so they may be reviewed before the November meeting. She thanked James and Gloria for providing insight and feedback, including the addition of topics that were new to her. Jess said she would appreciate peer review from some of our Black commission members to ensure she has addressed these new topics in the best way possible. James and Malik both said they would be willing to review in mid-October for the November meeting. Jess will send materials to the whole commission but will earmark the areas she's looking for extra feedback. Michael asked to speak with her separately to determine talking points for promoting the lessons to schools, and would

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

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 · www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk

Hrs: 8am-5pm MON-FRI · ph. 812-349-3471 · fax 812-349-3483 · mlk@bloomington.in.gov



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

prefer to begin these discussions at the end of October even if the lesson plans aren't finalized. This will help ensure that teachers are thinking about incorporating this curriculum into their January/February lessons.

New Business: None

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Dianne shared that the Freedom Fund Virtual Banquet on October 30 has been cancelled. They are now looking for the possibility to do a live banquet in April. Next meeting will be next Tuesday at 6:30 on Zoom, always on the first Tuesday of the month.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James announced that they are planning the next Male Youth Summit for April and are in the process of choosing a theme and vetting speakers.

Announcements: James thanked Michael for his diligence and hard work on the Black History Mobile Museum. Michael thanked Commissioners for being present and acknowledged that it was a rare, positive surprise that every Commissioner showed up throughout the three-day event. Dr. el-Hakim told Michael he was pleased with how the Bloomington community responded and engaged to the museum and discussions. James thanked Gloria and Michael for the initiative to help this fall event happen, noting that it has kept us more active and engaged throughout the year.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

October 26, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (zoom)

November 23, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (location tbd)

December date TBD, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (location tbd)