


City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Hooker Conference Room #245, at City Hall at Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington
Indiana on the Second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. In-person and a brief Zoom meeting.

Minutes

Mar 12, 2025, Attendance Key: ✓ Present ✗  Zoom

✓	James Sanders	✓	Patrick Smith	✗	Isaiah Brock
	MLK Birthday		Mayor		Mayor
✓	Siddhu McLeod	✓	Diana E. Powell-Opata	✗	Cornelius Wright
	Council 2025		Council 2025		Human Rights
✓	Dhakhir Abdullah				
	Mayor-2025				
✓	Staff Liaison		Andrew Shannon		
			Safe & Civil City Director		

Quorum: Yes

1. Call to Order: May 14, 2025 at 5:33
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - b. Motion: **Passed**
2. Request for Additional Agenda Items: YES
 - a. Siddhu requested to add to the meeting a discussion concerning an event that that focuses on and interweaves mental health with that of physical health.
 - b. A motion to approve was given by Diana
 - c. The motion was seconded by James

- d. It passed
- 3. Approval of April meeting minutes: YES
- 4. New Business
 - a. Public Comments
 - i. Andrew Shannon discussed why the Monroe County Court retracted from the CSBM funding that limits the resources that the CSBM had to push their Black Male Youth Summit and other initiatives.
 - 1. The Monroe County Court did not provide a reason.
 - ii. The Commissioners are to receive an email from Andrew Shannon regarding the CSBM budget
 - iii. Andrew Shannon suggested that we could, as the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth had done, go out and fundraise and solicit funds from amenable businesses.
 - iv. Andrew Shannon suggested that the CSBM appoint chairs for each 2025 initiative.
 - v. Juneteenth Celebration
 - 1. CSBM is scheduled to be in attendance and Shannon has reserved a table for the CSBM.
 - 2. There are to be tables for the MLK Commission, Community and Family Resources Department, Commission on the Status of Children and Youth, the Office of the Mayor office of Public Engagement, Hoosier Health Check, Monroe County Public Health Department
 - b. Reports on proposed initiatives.
- 5. Old Business
 - a. 2025 Events
 - i. Black Barbershop Health Initiative (Patrick Smith is Chair of this initiative).
 - ii. National Million Father March, August 6th, 2025. (Dhakir Abdullah is Chair of this initiative)
 - iii. Black Male Youth Summit (September) (James Sanders is chair)
 - iv. Winter Wonderland Photos with Santa (December)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. It is agreed that we need to have metrics to collect for our initiatives
2. Patrick Smith reported on the Black Barbershop initiative
 - a. Patrick has been in contact with Sherly Kilmark (Hoosier Health Initiative director or coordinator), and the NAACP through Cathy Downtree and met with the latter personage.
 - i. Sherly focuses on biometric screenings as it relates to health behaviour, so there will be no need likely be no need to be intrusive and it was suggested that the CSBM have brochures and materials to give out to inform about health and such.
 - b. There will be Veggie Meter screening to report on nutrition activities.
 - c. Patrick suggested there could be cognitive assessments also.
 - d. Not sure if can do cholesterol or A1C tests
 - e. Patrick was placed in contact with Lindsay Shippley (maybe with Monroe Health Department) and wants to see if Shippley wants to additionally support the A1C and blood draw
 - f. The Fire department going to do blood pressure checks
 - g. There will be temperature control (basic screening)
 - h. There is a need to determine the location of where people are based (Shannon has a map template) and Shannon reported that all of the core near the front entrance
 - i. The CSBM is not providing food this year as a result of the City of Bloomington not providing food this year for Juneteenth. But beyond this the CSBM did not provide food because it would be a conflict of interests given that the Juneteenth event shares space with and is occurring concomitantly with Food Truck Fridays.
 - j. Regarding the collection of Data----- (collected type and how) —James feels like looking at people and demographic (male etc, ethnicity, number)
 - k. Event starts at 2pm, CSBM will be there at 1pm for set up.
3. Dhakir reported on the National Million Father March initiative.

- a. Dhakir called the secretary of the Principal of Fairview to request that the CSBM be allowed to have the event at Fairview again. Dhakir left a message on the answering machine but there was no call back.
 - b. Dhakir the next week email the Principal of Fairview but did not receive an answer
 - c. Andrew Shannon remarked that he would reach out to Dr. Marty Prester-Hanks.
 - d. Subsequent to this Dhakir reached out to a teacher at the school, one Drew McKenzie to see if Drew could establish contact between the CSBM and the Principal. McKenzie assure Dhakir that the event was important and that it would be something that Fairview would be glad to host. However, he would have to touch base with the principal to see if the event would progress towards fruition.
4. New inclusion to the agenda
- a. Siddhu discussed an initiative that seeks to focus on physical and mental health
 - i. He and his father practice taekwondo, and they wish to increase Black male involvement thereby positively impacting physical health.
 - ii. With this he wants this initiative to involve and to promotive activities that involve physicality including but not limited to sports and weightlifting.
 - iii. The goal is to have Black males and others participate in these activities physically while also being educated on the benefits on these undertakings on health.
 - iv. Classes are structured with one instructor, generally him or his father
 - 1. There is a cost.
 - 2. Siddhu will find out the price for the class
 - v. Regarding mental health, Siddhu recommended that we include some events on mental health.
 - b. James Sanders remarked that the event could possibly be held once a semester where the CSBM could invite the community out to a taekwondo event.

- c. James charged Siddhu to come up with a succinct proposal with actionable objectives for the initiative.
5. Black Male Youth Summit-James Sanders
- a. CSBM has the theme
 - b. CSBM needs to have figure out the topics
 - c. The speakers selected could choose between the topics they wish to speak on.
 - d. Possible speakers can be varied from teachers, educators, aspiring lawyers, PhD candidates and more.
 - e. James has tapped the CSBM with the task of determining who the speakers would be.
 - f. Prizes need to be secured along with trivia questions, food, breakfast, and volunteers.
 - g. We need to come with a proposal next time.
 - h. Date: September 11, 2025.
6. Winter Wonderland
- a. Andrew Shannon mentioned that the event would be held on Dec 6, 12-3pm on Saturday.
 - b. They will have a map layout of the event detailing the setup locations.
 - c. Volunteers need to reach out to in advance
 - d. James asked would the city offer a photographer
 - i. The answer was in the negative
 - e. Andrew proposed we seek out volunteers or interns that we have a connection to or are aware of. It was proposed that maybe we could look at IU partnerships.
 - i. Andrew said that his IU athletics interns may can help with it.
7. LIASOIN REPORT
- a. James Sanders annual report presentation was great.
 - b. The report was recorded and can be accessed online.
 - c. Andrew mentioned that CSBM needs to reemphasize the importance of numbers. Andrew mentioned that Parks and Recreation have a methodology for this. Perhaps we can look at people on outside it was suggested. A clicker could probably be used on the inside but a different method on the outside.

- d. Questions came up, the Chair asked about financials.
 - i. It was remarked that the CSBM started out with 2500 in 2024 (1500 spent) 1,000 budgets spent, it shows what funds were spent on and what money got in.
 - ii. We don't have winter wonderland sponsorship (1500 before) and other which is like almost 2000
 - iii. Shannon mentioned that for the purpose of soliciting donations from amenable businesses that he has a Word document that includes his signature, and the official letter head letter. Shannon mentioned that the document can be repurposed for fundraising and donations and more.
- e. Patrick plans to come up with spreadsheet on how to track progress and who will and for what

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- 1. Dhakir asked if his new title of "Secretary" could be included in future official correspondence and all other pertinent communications
- 2. Andrew answered in the affirmative to Dhakir's inquiry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNITY UPDATES

- 1. The Commission on the Status of Children of Youth has 9 nominations for their SWAGGER Awards to be held on June 3rd.

6:44 pm Adjournment