



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

May 28, 2025

Meeting began at 6:01pm

Attendance:

Commission Members (in-person unless noted): Angel Thornsby (Zoom), Aniah Fountain, Julie Roberts (Zoom), Gloria Howell, Brittany King (Zoom)

Staff: Michelle Moss

Associates and Guests: Julius Mitchell

Introductions:

Approval of Minutes: Quorum was not reached. We will approve minutes when we meet in August.

Staff Liaison Report: Nothing new to report. Budget remains the same.

Old Business:

1. Nametags
 - a. Moving forward we will not have Commission-specific name tags
2. AACE/Performer follow-up
 - a. For MLK 2026. Gloria spoke with Professors with Jacobs School of Music. Both professors were happy to participate in the celebration and Gloria proposed it to them as something collaborative. May sing something to open the program or sing a piece together to close the program. May also work with the Choral Ensemble to perform a piece.
 - b. Dr. Wise is interested in doing something to highlight the 50th anniversary of the Choral Ensemble. Currently waiting on budget pieces. Gloria will be meeting with him tonight.
3. Tabling dates for summer/fall (T-shirts)
 - a. Michelle doesn't have any additional confirmation for dates. August 23rd is Pride, she does not have the confirmation for this tabling yet. Once she starts getting confirmations Michelle will get those tabling dates out to the Commission to sign up.
 - b. Thanked everyone who came out to table for the Bloomington Juneteenth celebration. Got some good pictures and the activity went well.
 - c. If anyone has ideas for specific events to table at -- Let Michelle know.

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
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- d. September 6th from 8-12:30pm, Bloomington Volunteer Fair. Takes place in conjunction with the farmers market.
- e. Other events coming up that we could table at: Black y Brown Arts Festival October 17th , Lotus Festival September 25-28, Fiesta del Otoño beginning of October or middle of September, and Umoja Day September 6th. Send ideas for these events via email to the Commission.
- f. T-shirts update: Michelle has not yet heard back from the person doing the t-shirts. Michelle will check in with her post 4th of July. Michelle will bring them to the August meeting. Angel asked about approval for tshirts, Michelle shared that tshirts have been approved for ordering. Gloria suggested merch related to MLK Jr and Bayard Rustin items for Pride specifically. Aniah proposed designing something for tshirts.

New Business:

- 1. Establishing MLK Day On/40 Days Service Committee
 - a. Angel expressed interest in helping coordinate volunteer opportunities. If anyone else is interested, email Michelle. Partnership with Bloomington Volunteer Network. Brittany said she can join the committee as well. Suggested more involvement in the Banneker pancake breakfast.
 - b. Gloria suggested we be the leading voice in celebrating MLK Jr all year, we could do some type of calendar of programming from the Commission.
- 2. Establishing 2026 Remembrance Week Committee
 - a. Reading to students this year was great, but Michelle would like us to consider something more public reaching. A committee may be a good way to proceed with these efforts.
 - b. If anyone else is interested in being on this committee, please contact Michelle. Gloria said she can help with this.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Training to help branches deal with safety issues that are occurring. State meeting is this Saturday. Starting to attend school board meetings as a group, the next one is July 8th. Sent scholarships out on Juneteenth, \$3,500 all together in scholarships. A lot of applications for scholarships this year.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James was not in attendance.

Announcements: Julia promoted an event in Indy for an artistic entity called Ganggang for the Butter Art Festival.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

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Upcoming Meetings:

- July - cancelled
- August 27th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)
- September 24th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)

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