



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

December 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

Meeting began at 6:03pm

Attendance:

Commission Members (in-person unless noted): Angel Thornsburry (Zoom), Gloria Howel (Zoom), Brittany King (Zoom), Latonya Wilson (Zoom), James Sanders

Staff: Aubrey Seader

Associates and Guests:

Introductions: No introductions were needed for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: We did not reach quorum.

Staff Liaison Report:

1. Aubrey sent the Commission some documents to review.
2. Checks are starting to arrive at City Hall, we have about \$1,600 left to raise of our estimated budget. Waiting to hear back from a couple of sponsors that have given previously (Cook and Old National Bancorp). Have sent a few letters to sponsors that have given historically over the years. Waiting to hear back from the NAACP to see how much they will be giving. Will end up spending less on the special recognition of women in Bloomington than anticipated as the pins were less expensive. The cost of paper has gone up so the programs have gotten more expensive.
3. Aubrey has a meeting with the venue to go over the space and technology. She will let us know anything that we need to know before the program. We have an event link now for the Buskirk Chumley theatre. Aubrey will update it when we choose the Legacy Award winner. Started to get the information out in the community to get more folks to cover the event.

Old Business:

1. MLK Event Business Review (Progress Handout Provided)
 - a. First draft of the script for the event is done, including remarks. Brittany and Aubrey met this week to go through the script and her remarks as the MC. Aubrey asked Latonya about what part of the script she was planning to take part in. Latonya said originally she was going to introduce Dr. Parker but this was given to someone else. Latonya is not sure which role she is playing. Gloria said they were going to have Latonya come up after Dr. Parker's speech to thank her and give some highlights, and introduce Phil. Aubrey has this in the script currently. Latonya would like to write her remarks into the script, she will write some general remarks and thanks. Latonya will need some written information about Phil, such as a bio, to write those remarks. Gloria suggested more organic remarks based on what is presented and

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. 812-349-3433 · fax 812-349-3483 · mlk@bloomington.in.gov



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

getting a bio for Phil to write those remarks. Aubrey provided a deadline of December 20th for those remarks. This year we have to send the script in for edits, so we need plenty of time to submit the materials. Aubrey will provide details for the part of the remarks about Phil.

- b. Aubrey needs to get into contact with Marietta Simpson to see what she needs for her performance but needs contact information. Gloria will provide this information and will try to reach out to her.
- c. Aubrey needs contact information for Dr. Olivia Ekeh, Gloria has connected with her and asked her about presenting. Aubrey will reach out to Dr. Ekeh with details as soon as possible. Her email is oekeh@iu.edu.
- d. Dr. Parker will be back for a Soul Symposium with IU in April, so this can be something that can be in the remarks. Aubrey can also put this in materials for the MLK Birthday Celebration Event.
- e. Aubrey has the core graphics for the event put together. Those posters will go up around town after January 1st. A press release will go out on the week of January 5th. Aubrey will also share graphics that the Commissioners can share on their personal social media.
- f. Expected speakers list:
 - i. Gloria, Brittany, James and a guest, Latonya, Marietta Simpson, Dr. Ekeh, Phillip Amerson, Dr. Parker, Aubrey may add one more person to talk about the 40 Days of Peace.
 - ii. Aubrey has to confirm with Shatoyia if the mayor or deputy mayor will be speaking and giving out the Legacy Award.
- g. Aubrey is putting together the presentation for the prominent Black women of the movement from the information the Commission put together.
- h. For the local women's recognition initiative with giving them flower pins to symbolize giving them their flowers, Aubrey has sent information to Gloria about what our outreach to these individuals will look like. Aubrey would like Gloria's signature on the outreach as the Chair of the Commission.
- i. Gloria asked if we have access to the list of receivers from the previous newsletters. Aubrey is going to ask Shatoyia if we can send an email out to this list saying to come to the event. We can also do a press release, which will come out in early January.
- j. Assign Day-of Positions
 - i. Brittany, Gloria, and Latonya are all going to be in the program
 - ii. We will have one table for the flower pins and MLK booth. Angel is available to work this and set up. Aubrey will get back with a specific time to arrive, but probably around 4:30pm.
 - iii. We will still need to determine who can help tear down after the event.
- k. Set a Zoom Read-Through Rehearsal in January 2026

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. 812-349-3433 · fax 812-349-3483 · mlk@bloomington.in.gov



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

2. Review Committees: MLK 40 Days of Peace Committee, Remembrance Week Committee
 - a. MLK 40 Days of Peace starts on MLK Day and goes for 40 days
 - b. Remembrance Week is in April
 - c. The Commission did not spend time discussing this during this meeting.
3. Seat re-appointments
 - a. You must create a new account to re-apply

New Business:

1. Living Legend Award Selection
 - a. Review nominations
 - b. Select Recipient for 2026 Living Legend Award: We have selected Ruth Aydt.
 - c. Gloria will tell Ruth she got the award!
 - d. We talked briefly about whether we should send the people their nominations if they do not receive the award.
 - e. The award recipient gets an opportunity to give remarks at the event when they receive their award.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): No public comments at this time.

NAACP Update: Holiday pitch-in is happening on December 15th at 6:00pm. It is open to anyone.

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: Winter Wonderland event on Saturday was awesome! About 150 kids attended. They had toys, snacks, and activities. Pictures with Santa happened, James can send photos. Julie volunteered as Santa's elf! There were really good volunteers, and more than enough toys for kids. Leftover toys were donated to the Banneker center. They will debrief soon about what went well and what can be done for next year.

Announcements: Gloria shared about the IU MLK Celebration. She has received a lot of kudos for the Commission for our programming. This year, IU Bloomington is having an MLK breakfast this year, the same morning at 8:00am, it will be student centered as it is being hosted by the Office of Student Life and is going to be focused on service. Customarily, the speaker for the MLK Celebration has given remarks for this breakfast. Gloria said we will need to talk about logistics of transporting Dr. Parker for the breakfast and for the event. We need to tell her that the University invites her to share remarks at the breakfast. Aubrey said this is included in her contract. Aubrey will be picking up Dr. Parker and dropping her off at the airport. Aubrey asked Gloria to just let her know what transportation needs are for the breakfast. Latonya is going to advertise the event to her AAADS colleagues as well.

Angel shared she is not re-applying for her seat on the commission.



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

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- Feb. 25th- 6-7pm, City Hall Kelly Conference Room (RM #155)

MLK Commissioners

Aniah Fountain- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Gloria Howell- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Brittany King- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027

Julie Roberts- Appointed By: NAACP | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027

James Sanders- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Angel Thornsby- Appointed By: Mayor | Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

Latonya Wilson- Appointed By: Common Council | Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027