

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

This meeting will be held in the Allison Conference Room (Suite 225), City Hall, 401 N. Morton St) and may also be accessed via zoom at the following link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87885165070?pwd=tauuBRe8TpWez0beqKfw3hFaoReakT.1>

**Meeting ID:** 878 8516 5070

**Passcode:** 263131

Materials for this meeting can be found on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission's website, which is located at the following address:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/mlk>

## Agenda

### 1. Introductions / Call to Order - 6:10 P.M.

#### Present

- A. Lena Renae Williams (Zoom), Brittany King (Zoom), Julie Roberts (Zoom), Latonya Wilson, Dr. Gloria Howell (Chair), Aubrey Seader (Staff Liaison)

#### Absent

- B. James Sanders (Expected Absence)

### 2. Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes

- A. [May 2026 Meeting Minutes](#) - Not voted on, not enough commissioners in the room vs. on Zoom.

### 3. Reports (if any)

- A. Staff Liaison Report
  - a. Introduction of new commissioner: Lena Renae Williams
    - i. Commissioners introduced themselves to Lena. Lena introduced herself and said a little about her background. Welcome, Lena!
  - b. Public Art Project - Aubrey Seader & Gloria Howell
    - i. Julie says that we are not limited to sculpture or a mural.
      - 1. It could be landscaping, a fountain, a light show. So we can think more broadly than just murals or sculptures.
    - ii. The commissioners are interested in seeing a Black artist involved.

1. Aubrey explains that we can't limit the applicant pool based on race, but we can do outreach to any specific artists we are interested in and encourage them to apply.
  2. Julie suggested the Harrison Center.
- iii. Commissioners wonder how the funding can happen.
  1. Aubrey confirmed there are some possible funding sources listed in her notes from the meeting with ESD.
- iv. Lena asks - Could we do this as a collaboration?
  1. Gloria confirms that there are opportunities for collaboration with the NAACP, with NMBCC.
  2. Aubrey says that Paige and Christina (from ESD) encouraged us to find community support (individuals and groups) for this project, so a collaborative project would be a good idea.
- v. Lena asks if the art piece could be made outside of the park and transported?
  1. Yes, that would depend on the piece of art.
- vi. Latonya recommended a piece of art that was suspended above the park, like when a sign is hung above a road.
- vii. Latonya suggested an alternative project, where we do a live performance series or semi-permanent piece of art that stands in the park temporarily.
  1. Then we could take photos and do gallery shows of those photos.
- viii. Gloria explained that she pitched this project to ESD as a 2028 project
  1. Rolling out the project in 2028 (in some form) would be a chance to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1968 destruction of the Black Market, and the 60th anniversary of Dr. King's death.
  2. This is one of the ways to connect the project directly to MLK's legacy and work.
  3. ESD suggested that 2028 is a good goal for this project.
  4. Julie suggested that 2028 is a good goal date to have a design and layout of the final piece. It won't be long enough to actually have the piece be done (if it's a permanent piece).
- ix. 1968 Commemorations (Black Market & Remembrance Day)
  1. There is a lot of opportunity for collaboration with IU NMBCC and other organizations, since it was a grad student that started the Black Market.

2. There are a lot of archival documents and stories that can help tell the story of the Black Market and honor it.
  3. Black Business Month is August, and we have the opportunity to tie in this project with that national commemoration.
- x. Regardless of whether this project is done by 2028, Gloria is interested in doing some meaningful collaborations to commemorate 2028. If the project isn't done, it's a good opportunity to get community buy-in.

#### B. NAACP Report

##### a. Freedom Schools Project - Julie Roberts & Brittany King

- i. Identified 5 values & 5 skills they want to instill in their students
  1. Values: Courage, Integrity, Kindness, Respect, Accountability
  2. Skills: Critical Thinking, Being a Good Neighbor, Self Control, Empowerment, Drive/Discipline
- ii. Brittany King and Julie Hardesty are co-chairs of the Freedom School Project
- iii. The group is thinking of giving the Freedom School project a name other than "Freedom School."
- iv. NAACP's Juneteenth tabling went really well.
  1. Most people didn't know what a Freedom School was.
  2. The table shared literature about the Freedom Schools of the 60s.
  3. People wrote (on post-its) Black Historical Figures & Black History Moments that they thought middle school students should know about. The suggestions were all over the map, and included local and national historical events and leaders.
  4. Demographics of attendees were all over the map (age, race, ethnicity). Lots of people were very supportive of the idea.
- v. They are close to establishing a mission statement the whole committee can approve.
- vi. Bri Hogue is coming to the next Freedom School Project meeting to talk to the group about how she established and runs her own Freedom School.

#### C. CSBM Report - James Absent

#### D. Juneteenth Event Report

- a. MLK Booth at Juneteenth - Latonya

- i. The MLK booth was a great time. People visited. Lots of people do not know that the commission exists. Are we okay with that or do we want to change it?

E. Public Comment

**4. Old Business**

- A. MLK 2027 Event Planning - Do not address this. Will spend all of July 2026 meeting on this topic.
  - a. Decide on theme
  - b. Review budget

**5. New Business**

- 1. Questions about Communications Policy - Gloria Howell
  - a. Gloria discussed the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Office of the Mayor (next week, 6/30) to ask questions about the communications policy and how the MLK commission can operate adequately within them.
  - b. The commissioners decided which questions Gloria should ask at the meeting. They were also invited to send further questions to Gloria via email.
- 2. Commissioner Trainings
  - a. How did they go?

**6. Adjournment - 7:10 P.M.**

**Board Membership**

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, and in compliance with Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Term</b>
James Sanders	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Brittany King	Mayor	4/30/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Latonya Wilson	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Gloria Howell	Mayor	2/1/2024	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Julie Roberts	Monroe County NAACP	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Lena Renae Williams	Mayor	6/1/2026	6/1/2026 to 5/31/2028
Vacant	Common Council	-	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028

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