



Commission Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 18, 2015

The Commission Board Meeting took place on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 and a quorum was seated at 10:43 am. Vice Chair Allen opened the meeting and asked Commissioner Dr. Vernon Smith to pray the invocation.

Roll Call

Laura Heinrich proxy for Jerome Adams, Shanel Poole, Warren Boyd proxy for Adrienne Shields, Lynn Smith proxy for Kevin Moore, Representative Vernon Smith, Kenneth Allen, Elijah Neal, Andre Patterson and Eddie Pillow joined the meeting by conference call.

Staff – James Garrett Jr.

Invocation

Representative Dr. Vernon G. Smith offered the invocation.

Introductions

Two guests, Mr. Breone Dupree and Ebony Chappel.

Adoption of Minutes

Proxy Lynn Smith moved for the approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2015 meeting, be adopted as presented and the motion was seconded by Elijah Neal. Minutes adopted unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report was presented and the question was posed regarding the 11K funds in the Commission budget for conference/annual event expenses. The question posed is can this figure be a separate line item shown in the financial report. Commissioner Dr. Vernon Smith moved for the acceptance of the financial report and the motion was seconded by Lynn Smith. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Allen Annual Event committee

Commissioner Allen reported his subcommittee has did not have an update from the previous meeting. The tentative plan is still for the one day Commission event on October 7, 2015 and some form of support or participation with the Bloom Project two day conference event July 31 and Aug 1, 2015. Commissioner Allen is seeking volunteers to assist with the planning and coordinating of the annual event in October. To date the day and meeting space has been reserved in the Indiana Government Center South for October 7, 2015. No budget or speakers and workshops have been determined as of yet. The following Commissioners and proxies stepped up to volunteer: Chairman Melton, Shanel Poole, Lynn Smith, Dr. Smith and Warren Boyd agreed to serve on the subcommittee to develop an annual conference event for 2015

Commissioner Dr. Vernon Smith Black Male Youth Day at the Statehouse committee

Dr. Smith reported that the Black Male Youth Day at the Statehouse is progressing well. The theme for this day is “**Young Black Males Matter**”. The date for the event is March 31, 2015 beginning at 9:00am with up to 200 youth attending from across the state. The basic agenda for the day will be continental breakfast, a group photo, motivational presentation by select elected officials and a keynote presentation by Reverend John Jackson, next half the youth will take a tour of the Indiana Statehouse and the House and Senate chambers, while the other half of the youth will enjoy a boxed lunch. Following lunch and the tours the young males will view proceedings from both the House chamber and Senate chamber. The honoraria suggested by the Commission to Reverend Jackson are \$250.00. Commissioner Poole suggested soliciting the youth for our youth focused events or conferences. Dr. Smith asked for clarity on the attire for the youth attending, either in professional attire or the t-shirts that the Commission will be providing. The consensus of the Commission was that the young men will attend the event in professional attire and will receive the t-shirt as a take away from the event. Dr. Smith also suggested reaching out to charter schools in Gary and the other participating communities.

Commissioner Andre Patterson Local Commission Reactivation committee

Commissioner Patterson suggested honing the focus to two local commissions currently, Gary and South Bend. His suggestion is to initiate the effort through conference calls and the identification of community leaders to engage in rebuilding. The challenge may be recruiting local elected officials in support of the effort to author the local commission ordinance. The hope is through the conference call process local community needs can be identified and by sharing the Commission Strategic Plan, local community needs will match and coordinate with the Commission objectives.

James was asked to check on ISTEP fall testing dates to avoid conflict with the tentative annual event. Also a suggestion was made to Commissioner Patterson to change *black brother* to *black male* in the Creed he prepared for the Black Male Youth Day at the Statehouse.

There being no further business to come before the Proxy Lynn Smith moved for adjournment of the meeting at 12:04 pm and the motion was seconded by Elijah Neal.