

MINUTES OF BEREA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

April 7, 2014

A regular meeting of the Berea Human Rights Commission was held on April 7, 2014 at Berea City Hall.

Present were Commissioners Carla Gilbert, David Shroyer, Janice Blythe, Jon Rogers, Adriel Woodman, Gene Stinchcomb. Guests included Stephany Hernandez, Kate Grigg and Charlie Wilton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Carla Gilbert. Jon presented the minutes from our March 5 meeting. Carla made a motion to approve and accept the minutes, Gene provided a second and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Janice introduced Stephany Hernandez a guest and graduating senior in child and family studies at Berea College and a representative of the Latin American Student Association (LASA). She told of us of the existence of her organization and the work they are doing in supporting students with Latin American heritage at Berea College. She told us of their upcoming festival on April 12. It was suggested that her successor in the Association schedule a visit in the early fall with the HRC to share what their 2015 school year plans are.

Janice suggested that we get to know Fred De Rosset a Spanish professor at Berea College for discussion about future interaction with LASA as he is their faculty advisor.

Gene presented information about the budget, that there is \$7500 available to the Berea HRC through June. He had a conversation with City Manager Randy Stone about replacing that amount in the 2015 budget and possibly securing more funds. There was a discussion about possible expenditures such as office equipment, letterhead, etc. We will propose to fund 3 items, maybe sponsorship of 2 events.

Gene made the motion to offer the Carter G. Woodson Center \$300 for their April 24 event which is a conversation on race. David provided a 2nd and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Jon made a motion to offer \$150 to LASA for their event. There was a discussion as to what the funds should be used for. This would be the Latin Festival of Madison County Celebrating Latinos in Appalachia. David provided a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Janice and Gene will work together on determining the process of getting checks to the groups. Carla to compose a cover letter.

Carla updated the HRC on the fairness ordinance. She met with city attorney Gilbert, Randy Stone and Diane Kerby. Hope is for the ordinance to be read first on April 15 at city council meeting. Janice suggested that the HRC should recommend the city set up an alternative site to accommodate the overflow expected for a public hearing on the ordinance.

Janice suggested we consider a financial contribution to the library due to their making resources available to the HRC.

Jon volunteered to find a vendor to get name tags for the HRC commissioners.

Jon reported that April is Fair Housing Month and that Mayor Connelly had earlier declared April as Fair Housing Month. Jon to attend a Fair Housing training session conducted by KY HRC on April 30 and report to the Berea HRC.

Carla asked members to come back to future meetings with work plans and suggestions for work items to fill in the calendar.

Janice brought up additional discussion in the Internship position. April 11 deadline is not a hard deadline. The labor position is a secondary position of 5-10 hours a week and is possible available. HRC must set up a supervisor position and need a formal process to work with the students.

David Shroyer met with Beth Myers of the Berea Citizen to discuss the possibility of a monthly column in the paper on education regarding human rights.

Kate notified Berea HRC of a Wednesday, April 9 training for commissioners at 6pm in Richmond with KY HRC.

Janice suggested that the Berea HRC reach out to Galen Martin who was the 1st executive director of the KY Commission on Human Rights as a potential educator for the community. Also suggested was former Ashland, KY Mayor David Welch who is a Berea College graduate and former KY HRC member.

Janice will inform Dr. Turley of our \$300 award.

Next meeting is Monday, May 5 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Adriel and seconded by David. Unanimous vote followed.