

MINUTES OF BERA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the Berea Human Rights Commission was held on March 5, 2014 at Berea City Hall.

Present were Commissioners David Shroyer, Janice Blythe, Jon Rogers and newly appointed Commissioners Adriel Woodman, Gene Stinchcomb and Miriam Pride. There was one guest, Dr. Alicestyne Turley, Director of the Carter G. Woodson Center, Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies at Berea College.

Commission Chair Carla Gilbert was absent.

At Carla's request David Shroyer chaired the meeting.

Jon Rogers presented meeting minutes from the Feb. 2, 2014 meeting. At the chair's request Janice made the motion to accept the minutes and David provided a 2nd. The meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

New commission members each took a few minutes to introduce themselves. After doing so David introduced our guest, Dr. Turley. She provided a background of the Woodson Center and we viewed a newly produced video on the center. We discussed the possibility of internships for Berea College students with the HRC. Dr. Turley told us of a national event that was happening in April regarding a conversation on race. We will talk about possible sponsorships at next meeting. Janice gave a deeper background on Dr. Turley and her KY roots.

Gene presented census info about city demographics. He will share with full HRC.

Janice asked if the HRC could tap into the college's labor program with Dr. Turley's assistance to possibly staff the HRC on a part-time basis—10-15 hours per week. Janice and Dr. Turley will pursue this.

Many thanks offered to Dr. Turley for her visit.

We reviewed the city council work session and understanding of next steps for the city with the draft Fairness Ordinance.

David has asked Lisa to update the website with new members and she has agreed to do so.

Carla is working on the John G. Fee award and will update HRC at next meeting.

An update on the Rebel Run was that it did not occur and our efforts to reach out to Madison Southern, Berea College and police officials was apparently successful.

We reviewed the budget and the amount of money that is available and what the spending priorities were.

A motion was made by Janice that David Shroyer be elected Vice-Chair of the HRC. It was accepted by Miriam. The motion passed unanimously.

Janice also nominated Gene to be Treasurer which was seconded by Adriel. This motion also passed unanimously. Gene will lead our efforts to prepare and submit a new budget to council.

Further discussion on the Woodson Center in April by David led us to determine that we definitely wanted to be a sponsor for the event.

David asked each member to research issues that are important to them and build an event calendar. To that end there was discussion of outreach to the community through putting forth to the public information on the history of the city in terms of diversity.

Janice made us aware of the existence of a Latino student organization on campus and would attempt to invite a member(s) to future meetings.

David said he would attempt to contact former Richmond, KY human rights chair Sandra Powell to attend a future meeting in Berea.

David reported that he had attempted to contact other commissions in the state with little success. Most seem to not be easy to reach. He is hoping to reach Covington.

David to contact John Johnson at KY HRC for a discussion.

Jon made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Janice and passed unanimously. Next meeting will be on April 7 at 6:30 at City Hall.