

## **MINUTES OF BERE A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**May 5, 2014**

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

Present were Commissioners Carla Gilbert, David Shroyer, Janice Blythe, Jon Rogers, Adriel Woodman, Gene Stinchcomb. Invited guest was Juan Pena from the KY Commission on Human Rights.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Carla Gilbert.

The session began with Mr. Pena's presentation which included updated materials and manuals for Commissioners. Items of note were as follows:

- Commissioners can initiate complaints in chronic situations
- Areas of jurisdiction are employment, housing, financial transactions and public accommodations
- Process of a complaint was described
- He is always available for assistance

Jon presented the minutes from the 4/7/14 meeting. With no edits Gene made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Adriel. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene's treasurer's report included possible expenditures. It was made part of the record of the meeting.

There was discussion about our part time office and an intern position. Must submit paperwork for the fall position. Janice and Adriel to work on an internship proposal. We will anticipate needing office space and David will follow up with Mayor Connelly on possible space. Janice described primary vs. secondary position as part of the work program. We will have to partner with the college on guidelines for the positions.

David, Carla and Janice to work on the labor position job description and communication process about obtaining a person.

Carla to send a letter to our donation recipients. Dollars have been distributed.

LASA event, good attendance, 12-15 vendors. Adriel, Gene and Janice attended from Berea HRC. We should ask for a report from the LASA rep as to how our dollars were spent.

Woodson Center event. David, Carla, Gene and Janice all attended at least part of the day. It was a conversation on race, religion, culture and class among other things. Interesting and deep conversation. We want to ask Dr. Turley to attend a future Berea HRC meeting to give feedback.

As follow up would we want to invite bell hooks to share her thoughts on the history of Berea with respect to race and culture? Also Mayor Connelly and possibly Dr. Jackie Burnside.

Carla to order books for Berea HRC members, *Racing To Justice* by John A. Powell and *Belonging: A Culture of Place* by bell hooks.

David to find Richard Sears book on Madison County history as Jackie Burnside's Berea and Madison County history and review them for the commission.

Carla to pursue obtaining the Fee award plaque.

Cara updated the commission on the status of the draft ordinance. A revised draft has been given to city council member Diane Kerby who is out of town recently. Carla will obtain a copy and share with Berea HRC members. There was discussion on community input and next steps.

David will write a small Berea Citizen article that will be published in late May. It will ask and answer the question "What is the Berea Human Rights Commission?" and break down the ordinance.

Jon and Lisa to get together on the website.

Jon presented info on the Fair Housing session he attended in Lexington on behalf of the HRC.

Gene noted that we should consider future trainings on related topics.

Miriam is willing to be involved in the student supervision for intern/labor position.

Next meeting is June 2 at 6:30 at City Hall.

David motioned to adjourn, Adriel seconded. Passed unanimously.