

City of Berea
Berea Human Rights Commission Minutes
Monday, February 2, 2015

Present: Mr. David Shroyer (presiding), Mr. Gene Stinchcomb, Ms. Miriam Pride, Mr. Adriel Woodman, and Ms. Janice Blythe (recorder). Guest: Mr. Jeff Rubin

1. The monthly meeting of the Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) was called to order by Vice President David Shroyer at 6:30 p.m. Members of the commission and guests were introduced.
2. Introduction of guest, Mr. Jeff Rubin, who led a discussion regarding the Age-Friendly Berea Initiative. Mr. Rubin outlined several points associated with this initiative, including the encouragement that we as a community should be a champion for this initiative. His main emphasis was to raise a question and then to offer several perspectives about the value and benefits of such an initiative. Other salient points in his presentation included
 - BHRC can work with the Age-Friendly Committee to determine ways to help people in the community understand the contributions from seniors and not just the services that seniors may need
 - Seniors contribute to the local economy by spending their money
 - Inter-generational thinking, activities, services, and businesses offer great benefits to the community; intergenerational opportunities are possible. Jeff mentioned Old **[corrected from Ole, Feb. 2, 2015]** Town as an intergenerational gathering place.
 - He briefly introduced a Circle of Life—a VT model
 - He briefly discussed issues or potential issues pertaining to ageism (discrimination on the basis of age in the workplace)
 - Jeff suggested that this initiative is a major economic opportunity for the community and county, e.g. increased tourism, explorations, expanded services, etc.
 - He raised the question: where is the expertise in the workplace? --among those 50 years old and beyond

Jeff invited the BHRC to become actively involved with this initiative and the work of this committee. David encouraged us to attend the February 12th meeting from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

3. Minutes from the January meeting will be presented, discussed, and approved at our next meeting.
4. Selection of Secretary to replace Jon Rogers—deferred for the next meeting. J. Blythe recorded minutes for the February meeting.
5. Report on the meeting with Mayor Connelly and City Administrator/City Manager Stone regarding the proposal for office space and a part-time clerical position for the commission. David, Adriel, and Janice reported on the January meeting. Carla also attended the meeting at City Hall. Discussion [BHRC meeting] ensued. Salient points from the February BHRC conversation include the following:

- Gene Stinchcomb (treasurer) will work up a more detailed plan to project total budget anticipated for this proposed 10 – 15 hour position. He will also work on a template for the position description.
 - Members were encouraged to think about potential persons who might be interested in such a part-time position.
 - Priority is to obtain office space. City manager Randy Stone (in the January meeting) noted that there is available space. It was suggested that BHRC members could volunteer to work in the office a specified number of hours each week. Potential office set-up was discussed.
 - Carla can report on her findings regarding support and needs of the BHRC for upgrading our website at our next meeting.
 - David will have follow-up conversation with Mayor Connelly to determine next steps.
6. Reports on future plans for a community forum for later this spring (possibly May).
- Several points were raised to discuss future ideas to educate ourselves (the BHRC) and the community on matters of human rights, including the topic of ethics and an overview of issues of human rights
 - David will have a conversation with the superintendent at Berea Community School. Janice will talk with the executive director of the KY Human Rights Commission.
 - Have representatives work directly with the BHRC to educate us on more in-depth matters about human rights. Who are good resources and good resource persons on these topics?
 - Obtain representatives/speakers from such agencies as the Ky Banking, Ky Realtors, and other agencies to educate employers and other citizens in the community about the professional standards that pertain to housing, lending practices, and other citizen and employee issues.
7. David will do follow-up with the Mayor regarding a replacement on the commission for Mr. Jon Rogers, who has accepted a position in West Virginia.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded (2.2.15) and corrected (3.16.15) by

Janice B. Blythe