

Berea Human Rights Commission
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2017, 6:30 PM
Conference Room, Broadway Center
204 N. Broadway Berea, KY 40403

Present: Mim Pride (Chair), Gene Stinchcomb (Vice Chair), Ali Blair (Secretary), Janice Blythe

Rev Carla Gilbert, Peter Hille. Absent: Eef Fontanez

Guests:

Summary of Actions Taken:

- Chair calls meeting to order: 6:30 PM.
- With a large crowd of guests in attendance, Chair calls a 15 minutes recess. The meeting is moved to Council Chambers to provide a larger space so as to remain in compliance with KRS Statutes.
- Meeting reconvened at 212 Chestnut St at 6:43pm.
- Gilbert MOVES to approve April Meeting Agenda: MOTION CARRIED.
- Blythe MOVES to Approve March Meeting Minutes: MOTION CARRIED.
- Stinchcomb SUBMITS Treasurer's Report.
- Blythe MOVES to accept Treasurer's Report: MOTION CARRIED.
- New Business: Bereans for Fairness.
 - Statement from Whitney Preston, a 8 month Berea resident, about a recent crime at her home being investigated by the Madison County Sheriff's Office. Her garage door and truck tailgate were spray painted with the words "Lesbian and Lesbo." She states, "I'm not evil, my wife's not evil. My child is certainly not evil. It's 2017 and lesbian is not an insult and it was used to hurt me." She implores the BHRC to enact changes to keep hate crimes from happening to the Berea LGBT+ community.
 - Statement from Loren Weber, Berea College Sophomore. This incident increased dialogue on campus. Weber states that this should be used as a platform to bring attention to ongoing harassment due to race, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
 - Statement from Judith Faulkner, Berea resident. Encourages looking at these issues through the lens of the law. She states that this is "domestic terrorism and we can't even go to court. I do not want to be scared people might attack me like it's 1965. It does happen in Berea. We don't want that in Berea - racism, homophobia, sexism. I implore you, please stand up and let people know that you won't take this."
 - Pride STATES that Fiscal Court does not have a HRC, reports/documentation is necessary.
 - Blythe STATES that the commissioners are "sensitive to these issues, doing our best effort to educate the community as we educate ourselves. It hurts us when we are told that Berea does not have problems with race or LGBT issues. It's not fair for the law not to protect us all."

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- Stinchcomb STATES “right now, it’s not that the law is failing us but it is that there is no law. All we have is hearsay unless we have documentation. The LGBTQ community is not protected. That in itself is wrong.
- Blair MOTIONS: As the Berea Human Rights Commission seeks to conduct or arrange for research projects and studies into, and publish reports on discrimination and progress in equal opportunity in the community and to improve community relations and ease intergroup tension; The BHRC moves to monitor and document hate incidents within the community in order to design and educational programming to ease intergroup tensions and to draft memos concerning issues within the community to be sent to City leadership. MOTION CARRIED.
- Pride WELCOMES Peter Hille to the commission, followed by member introductions.
- Berea Leadership Experience. Kim Kobersmith. The program is based on the Peace Village Curriculum, building kids leadership skills and nonviolent conflict resolution. The hope for 50 children. Stinchcomb MOVES that the BHRC offset fees at \$10/student. Gilbert AMENDS the motion to support the Berea Leadership Experience with \$500. MOTION CARRIED.
- Office Report: Blair MOVES to purchase the Dell Latitude E5470 Laptop at \$2010.06. MOTION CARRIED.
- Announcements: Pride REPORTS: admin assistant interview will be set up with the City for the following week: Pride attended a Richmond HRC meeting and they are interested in working with the BHRC on joint projects; “Get on the Bus” is scheduled for April 25th. Sign up online at the KY Fair Housing website.
- Internship committee is formed to explore partnership with Berea College (Blythe, Blair, Fontanez).
- Pride REPORTS her May 2nd surgery. She will not be in attendance for the May meeting. Stinchcomb will take over duties for May.
- Stinchcomb STATES the BHRC meetings should be recorded as a matter of public record. Gilbert MOVES that the regular BHRC meeting should be moved to Council Chambers at 212 Chestnut Street. MOTION CARRIED.
- Hille REPORTS he will not be in attendance at the June meeting.
- Meeting ADJOURNED, 7:37 PM.

Ali Blair
Secretary

Minutes Recorded: April 3, 2017

Minutes Approved:

[Mim Pride, Chair]