
Berea Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: May 27, 2026

Location: 3rd Floor Conference Room, Berea City Hall

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Felecia Ballard.
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II. Roll Call

Present:

- Felecia Ballard
- Mim Pride
- Doug Martin
- Susie Harris
- Sharyn Mitchell
- Heather Johnson

Absent:

- None

Welcome Visitors:

- Ali Blair
 - Gabby (Informal)
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III. Approval of Minutes

- **April 22, 2026 Minutes** were read during the meeting.
 - Motion: Mim Pride moved to approve minutes with noted corrections. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion Carried.
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IV. Treasurer's Report

- No report was submitted as the Treasurer position is vacant.
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V. Unfinished Business

- **2026 Juneteenth Celebration**

- Madison County Juneteenth Weekend**

- Felecia Ballard gave updates on Richmond's event
 - Their event is progressing well with 15 vendors/exhibitors, as well as speakers, reenactments, food trucks, etc. They have a small stage in place.
 - Corey Jackson has been confirmed for violin performance.
 - The Madison Co group requested a \$250 donation from the BHRC.
 - After the Commission discussed the current budget and wanting to be good partners.
 - Check to be made payable to Our Land of Promise and those funds are needed by June 13.
 - Sharyn Mitchell questioned if our event was being promoted by the Madison Co group. Felecia explained that our event information was present on all the flyers.
 - Mim Pride moved to donate \$200 to Our Land of Promise. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion carried.
 - Ali Blair brought up a particular person tabling at the Berea event.
 - Ali brought up concerns of said person complying with Levitt Amp's requirement of no direct political activity or lobbying.
 - Person was told they can have materials, exhibits and information directing the public to their website, but cannot directly ask for signatures on their petition. This decision was reached by Levitt Amp after having several meetings.
 - Susie Harris questioned if Ali had all of these discussions with Levitt Amp documented. She confirmed she did.
 - In response to restriction, person stated they would not comply and would ask for signatures.
 - Question posed by Ali: Should person be allowed to table at event?
 - Felecia contacted Aaron Milton at the Richmond NAACP to loop him in on the discussion. He stated said person was tabling their event.
 - Commission decided to let person table our event while reiterating to them that they cannot have any onsite petition/signature collection. Ali will communicate this to them.
 - May 20, 2026 Work Session Follow-up:
 - Susie Harris showed the Commission her t-shirt design
 - Commission decided to order shirts in Light Blue with nothing on the back so they can be worn at future events.
 - Members will text Susie their shirt sizes

- Felecia presented information on swag items to be purchased through Amazon. These included items specific to the Juneteenth event as well as more non-specific items for future events.
 - She will send links to items out to the Commission.
 - Heather Johnson said she will make an inquiry to Janel Lakes Davenport (previous BHRC Secretary/Treasurer) as to the procedure for online ordering.
- Susie Harris showed the TikTok reel her JAG students created to promote our event.
 - Susie will send the link out to all members.
 - Felecia requested we get that link and any other event information out to as many people as possible.
- Felecia reiterated this is a coordinated Madison County event and all future promotions should reflect this.
- Commission agreed to share any new materials with members before broad sharing.
- Commission discussed ensuring any promotional efforts reach across all Berea communities; emphasize inclusivity and that this event is all weekend. Richmond's will have more of an urban feel, with food and exhibits, while Berea's will be more performance-driven.
- Ali Blair presented:
 - Contacts with performers/exhibitors verified.
 - Tabling list maintained.
 - IRS name change to Berea AMP is processing so payment from Berea College is pending.
 - City requests submitted (space, tent/stage, ADA cones); coordinating with Captain Botkin.
 - Dre's Catfish is confirmed.
 - Smitty's food truck is down; exploring smaller setup and Berea Kids Eat arrangement; possible guaranteed payment.
 - Ali will notify Commission if assistance is needed.
 - Ali is working on additional vendor outreach: specifically drinks and kettle corn
 - Kona Ice contacted; Overflow Coffee no response; Tom's Coffee unavailable.
- Other updates/Action Items:
 - Felecia Ballard waiting to get a response from Shaniqua Robinson at the Association for Teaching Black History
 - Sharyn Mitchell waiting to get a response from Men in Christ-she will follow up.
 - Doug Martin is following up with some people in Somerset.
 - Ali is going to reach out to Lindsay Caudill about singing. Doug said he would email her.
 - Other artists/performers were discussed
 - Felecia gave information about discounted rates at Boone Tavern for traveling performers.
 - Heather Johnson will follow up with First Christian Church about tabling and donation.

- Sharyn Mitchell asked if there were other exhibitors. Felecia stated she was contacted by Rita & Mitch Brown. She put them in touch with Ali.
- Ali stated her follow-up contacts list: Union Church, First Christian Church, Berea College, Pat Gailey, Boone Tavern, and Camp Nelson.
- Ali asked Doug Martin about Ignite Academy. He said he will contact them.
- Ali asked Felecia about Our Land of Promise and Telford Achievers. Felecia will reach out to the group and let Ali know.
- Felecia will reach out to the other participants shown on the Weekend Event flyer, including the Richmond Human Rights Commission and Richmond NAACP.
- Ali said she would reach out to the Madison Co Library.
- Sharyn Mitchell stated Blacks in Appalachia have agreed to table. Ali will follow up.
- Susie Harris asked Ali if she had JAG listed, and she said she would add them to the list.
- Sharyn Mitchell said Berea College Archives will table. Ali will follow up.
- Felecia stated the Madison Co Historical Society is also interested in tabling. Felecia will give Ali their contact information.
- Sharyn stated CELTS was interested in tabling as well as the Kiwanis Club.
- Heather Johnson stated she will contact Berea Tourism to see if they are interested.
- Other possible exhibitors were discussed including Berea Home Village and the Berea Farmers Market. Ali will follow up.
- Ali Blair stated she was finalizing a flyer with all ten Berea AMP concerts that includes our event that we can also disseminate.

- **2026 Budget**

- Mim Pride presented:

- She expressed her desire to get the Treasurer position filled ASAP.
- She reported that Mayor Fraley is pleased with the Commissions' efforts and plans. However, he is anxious about the \$5k request. He suggested we lower it to \$4250 for FY 2027, and \$4900 for FY 2028.
- She then reported that after expenses already incurred and commitments made, we had approximately \$1071.71 remaining for swag and other items.
- Sharyn Mitchell informed the group that the Madison County Historical Society is giving us \$250, which brings our available funds up to around \$1300.
- After some further discussion on what items to procure and funds remaining, it was put to a motion.
- Mim Pride moved to purchase swag, table cloth, printer, folding table, and tent, and for those purchases to not exceed \$1000. Doug Martin seconded. Vote: Motion carried.
- Felecia asked Susie to let us know as soon as she heard back about ordering a table cloth with our logo.

- Commission discussed different table cloth colors and logo presentations. Ali said she would send the logo graphic to Susie.
 - **2025 Annual Report**
 - Sharyn Mitchell stated she was unable to open files and work on it while on her cruise.
 - Mim Pride stated that the Mayor was looking forward to a presentation at our earliest convenience.
 - **2026 KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame Award**
 - Sharyn Mitchell was continuing to work on the application for Kent Gilbert.
 - She has the backbones started and received his bio from Carla Gilbert.
 - Sharyn and Mim are meeting next Monday to work on it.
 - They only need three letters of support. Sharyn has asked Lisa Abbott, Reverend Robert Blyer, Mayor Steve Connelly, and Peter Hille.
 - Sharyn stated the deadline was June 30, but would like to have it ready for the Commission by June 15.
 - **Community Awareness Events**
 - Felecia Ballard asked Susie Harris for an update.
 - Susie said they had to cancel the May Fraud/Scam Awareness event, because of too many other things going on.
 - However, she wants to get that rescheduled. She thinks it is still a great idea and important for the community.
 - Sharyn has been in communication with Central Bank, who has a national person that does scam awareness trainings. She has also spoken with Craig Loftis at State Farm, as well as other insurance agencies, and PNC Bank in Richmond.
 - Sharyn also mentioned reaching out to law enforcement making this a truly community event.
 - The Commission then discussed if the Library Community Room may no longer be large enough.
 - Felecia asked Susie to contact the Berea Event Center to see if it would be available in September.
 - Sharyn said she will give Susie the information of the people she has been in communications with.
 - **John G. Fee Award**
 - **Dr. Janice Blythe Youth Award**
 - Felecia stated Heather Johnson sent her the awards packet materials, and questioned the group as to the best time to get everything out to the schools.
 - Doug Martin mentioned the beginning of the year was a bit overwhelming dealing with all of the other forms and paperwork.
 - After some discussion the Commission decided to push making awards decisions to October, with the packet going out in mid-August.
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VI. New Business

- **Treasury Vacancy**
 - Felecia Ballard explained that sometime in 2025 the role of Secretary/Treasurer was split into two separate positions, with Janel Lakes Davenport filling the role of Treasurer. Since her term expired in April, that position has been vacant.
 - Mim Pride stated she had asked Heather Johnson if she was willing to have those positions combined again and assume the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Heather said she was willing if no one else was interested. After others expressed not wanting to fill the Treasurer position, a motion was made.
 - Mim Pride moved to return to the Secretary/Treasurer format and Heather Johnson fill that position. Nominations ceased by Sharyn Mitchell. Vote: Motion carries.
 - **Juneteenth Proclamation**
 - Felecia Ballard read the 2026 Juneteenth Proclamation that will be presented by Mayor Fraley at the next Berea City Council meeting on June 2, 2026.
 - Sharyn Mitchell suggested that "Kentucky" be added after Berea in the last line to assure differentiation from Berea, Ohio.
 - Susie Harris moves to accept Proclamation with suggested change. Doug Martin seconded. Vote: Motion carried.
 - Felecia stated she would pass that request on to Robin Adams at the City.
 - **Promotional Items**
 - Discussed under 2026 Budget
 - **Richmond/Madison County Branch of the NAACP 5K Run**
 - Mim pride shared that it was the original Juneteenth Celebration. It begins at 8 a.m. on June 20, 2026 at Whitehall. Registration is online.
 - Felecia Ballard shared that the Telford Achievers were one of the four recipients this year of the funds raised.
 - Mim Pride gave some history of the event, and that is was a project of the Health Committee of the NAACP.
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VII. Announcements

- **No Announcements**
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VIII. Comments

- **No comments**
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IX. Adjournment

- **Motion: Mim Pride moved to adjourn. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion Carried.**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.
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Approved by: Felecia J. Ballard
Felecia Ballard, BHRC Chair

Prepared by: Heather Johnson
Heather Johnson, BHRC Secretary/Treasurer