

Berea Human Rights Commission
Regular Meeting
September 11, 2017, 6:30 PM
Berea Police and Municipal Building Council Chambers
304 Chestnut St. Berea, KY 40403

Present: Mim Pride (Chair), Gene Stinchcomb (Vice Chair), Eef Fontanez (Treasurer), Dr. Janice Blythe (Secretary), Rev. Carla Gilbert, Peter Hille, Randy Dinsmore

Absent: None

Kathleen Murphy (Volunteer Administrative Assistant)

Guests: 3 guest visitors

Summary of Actions Taken:

- Chair calls meeting to order: 6:30 P.M.
- Pride welcomes guests.
- Hille MOVES to approve September Meeting Agenda: MOTION CARRIED.
- Announcements:
 - Pride and Gilbert will be attending the Civil Rights Hall of Fame reception and Ceremony on Sept. 21st.
 - Thanks to Hille for an excellent presentation to the Council on disability.
 - Blythe & Pride presented at the B.C. Residential Assistants Orientation at Baird Lounge.
 - Thanks to all volunteers at Levitt Amp series to make tabling possible.
 - Pride shared that Juan Pena is not currently available to do training in September, but we hope to organize for training in October.
- Hille MOVES to approve August minutes with correction to strategic planning meeting date error: MOVED & CARRIED.
- Information not available for the Treasurer's Report.
- Pride shares office report: Murphy continues to volunteer to prepare for monthly meetings, checking email, voicemail, and USPS mail.
- Programming Update: Pride DESIGNATED to follow up regarding programming.
 - Discussion followed regarding accessibility training and bringing an outside consultant. Hille shared that the City Council expressed interested in an ADA accessibility training and there was a suggestion to look for local resources to offer the training. Blythe remembers that the Council was concerned about the cost. Hille shared that he informed the City that the cost would come out of the HRC budget. Blythe spoke with Juan Pena who emailed names of individuals

who are qualified to do such a training. Hille remembers to keep in mind the breadth of knowledge to do this training (Ex. Kentucky League of Cities). Blythe, Dinsmore, and Stinchomb VOLUNTEER to define what the training will involve and work toward finding trainer with expertise. Ex. Southeast ADA Center www.hdi.uky.edu ada.southeast.org

- Age Friendly Communities. Discuss at strategic planning meeting in November.
- Berea Leadership Experience July 24-28 Report.
 - Thank you note and description of activities at the BLE, which focused on conflict resolution and relationship building. Michelle Tooley's estate supported this camp.
- Presentation to Berea College Residential Life Staff Blythe & Pride
 - Discussion followed about the presentation at the B.C. Residential Assistants Orientation training. Gus Geressimides shared that the students felt more empowered. Pride shared that the RHRC has been presenting at EKU for years.
- Levitt Amp Tabling Review
 - The BHRC tabled at all the Levitt Amp Series. Blythe shared that some citizens offered to volunteer for tabling in the future. Stinchcomb suggests tabling at the Spoonbread Festival. Discuss future tabling at the Strategic Planning meeting.
- Fair Housing Training
 - Understaffing at the Kentucky Coalition of Human Rights is delaying this training. KCHR's Juan Pena is aware of the BHRC's interest in fair housing training. Hille suggests partnering with FAHE. Pride VOLUNTEERS to contact Kentucky Fair Housing.
- Status of Administrative Assistant Position
 - Three candidates for AA position have been selected. Pride VOLUNTEERS to schedule interviews.
- John G. Fee Award
 - 6 nominations were reviewed by the committee and recommends to the Commission that there be an awardee as well as a special commendation. Committee proposes a special commendation to Nick Carpenter and proposes to the Commission to add an annual youth leadership award in the future. Stinchcomb MOVES to offer a Commendation to Nick Carpenter. MOTION AND CARRIED.
 - Gilbert MOVES that BHRC establish a youth leadership award. Hille adds that the award be called the John G. Fee Youth Leadership Award. Motion Carried.
 - Nominee for the Fee Award is Mae Suremak. Discussion followed to support Mae Suremak. Gilbert Moved Fontanez seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

- Hille reminds the Commission that the John G. Fee award be made at the September 19th at 6:30. Pride and Fontanez VOLUNTEERS to make the presentation.
- Discussion about the youth leadership commendation as the inaugural awardee. MOTION to make Nick Carpenter the inaugural youth leadership awardee. Blythe recommends discussing language around the youth leadership award. Gilbert and Pride will contact Good Impressions about the plaque.
- Middletown School Historic Monument
 - Sharyn Mitchell requests a recommendation. Gilbert reads a letter she drafted to the Middletown Reunion Association. Blythe MOVED to submit the letter. Hille Second MOTION CARRIED.
- Future Meetings
 - October 2nd (Gilbert Chairing) Motion for Gilbert to chair the October meeting. MOVED & CARRIED.
 - November 6th meeting: Regular meeting plus strategic planning with meal.
 - December 4th meeting
 - Blythe, Pride, and Hille planning strategic meeting.
 - Hille suggests adds a short business meeting for 30 mins. And using the rest of the meeting for strategic planning. For the strategic planning: start with a review of the history, mission, landscape analysis, review mission, develop goals and objectives, and other critical issues. Etc. Hille can facilitate. Strategic: Age Friendly, Fair Housing, ADA, and Fee Youth Award, Fairness Ordinance need to be put back on another agenda. Pride and Blythe VOLUNTEER to organize the meal. Murphy VOLUNTEERS to clean the meeting space.
- Discussion for formal request to council to change the city ordinance consistent with the federal statute. Pride suggests bringing this to the Council.
 - Include mental impairment in the protected classes category.
 - Stinchcomb mentions, age discrimination for “40 plus” and familial status, bringing the Commission current and consistent with federal statute. The statute needs to take precedence over the bylaws.
 - Pride recommends Dinsmore talk with the City Attorney to review the federal statute, and do the research to prepare.

Public Comment

Guest, Jacque Bowling requests that mental impairment be not considered a disability. J. Bowling appreciates the new youth leadership award.

Virginia Bland knows some folks that work for the Human Development Institute at UK.

8:06 P.M. MOTION MOVED and CARRIED to ADJOURN.

Kathleen Murphy
Volunteer Administrative Assistant
Minutes Recorded: Sept 11, 2017
Minutes Approved:

[Mim Pride, Chair]