

City of Berea
Berea Human Rights Commission Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2015

Present: Rev. Carla Gilbert (presiding), Ms. Miriam Pride, and Janice Blythe (recorder).
Guests: Mayor Steve Connelly, City of Berea, and Mr. Juan Pena, the Kentucky Human Rights Commission

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. Without a quorum, a structured conversation ensued to give a reporting back of assignments by commission members.

Rev. Gilbert, Chair, indicated that meetings from the January meeting were unavailable. Minutes from the January meeting will be read and voted upon at the April meeting. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed, one correction offered, and with agreement, the correction will be made: spelling correction: from "Ole" to "Old Town". **The revised sentence will read as follows:** "Inter-generational thinking, activities, services, and businesses offer great benefits to the community; inter-generational opportunities are possible. Jeff [Rubin] mentioned **Old** Town as an inter-generational gathering place." The minutes of the February meeting will be officially approved at the April meeting.

Old Business report back of previous assignments

- Office space—Rev. Gilbert reported that a conversation with our treasurer, Gene Stinchcomb, the current budget of the BHRC can accommodate a 10 – 15 hour position. Gene has had a follow-up conversation with City Manager Randy Stone. Rev. Gilbert will visit the space before our next meeting.
- Updating of our web site on the City of Berea's web page. Rev. Gilbert has had a conversation with Ms. Lisa Vaughn and she [Ms. Vaughn] will assist the BHRC to do the necessary work to upgrade the BHRC section, e.g. adding minutes from previous meetings and other current information about commission members.
- Rev. Gilbert and Vice President David Shroyer have talked with Mayor Connelly to offer names for persons to fill vacancies on the commission.
- Mayor Connelly announced that Vice President David Shroyer will be re-appointed for a three-year term, ending October 2017.
- No members of the BHRC were able to attend the Age-friendly Initiative Meeting. Rev. Gilbert will do follow-up with Mr. Jeff Rubin, Chair of that initiative. Ms. Janice Blythe agreed to forward e-mail correspondence she has received from Mr. Rubin to all members of the BHRC. Mayor Connelly encouraged our commission to submit our ideas for the survey that the Age-friendly Committee is developing.

New Business

- To continue our conversation about educational issues for the community, Mr. Juan Pena of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, offered comments about April designated as Fair Housing Month. He gave information about training that is being planned around the state, as well as legislative conversations currently being held in Frankfort. He reported on the activities of the Kentucky Fair Housing Task Force and the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA). Currently, cities that have adopted URLTA as local law are Somerset, Lexington, and Barbourville. He also talked about the Kentucky Commission for the Homeless. He informed us about current proposed legislation to protect housing rights of victims of domestic violation. He shared information about a proposed bill which would allow state government (KY) to claim property from undocumented residents of KY who now own property and have not become

legal residents by the mandated 8 year period. A number of groups across the state are urging legislators to repeal the existing law which allows illegal aliens/undocumented residents in KY to own property if these individuals have not become legal residents within the existing requirement of the 8 year period. Discussion ensued. Several questions were raised by the group.

- Ms. Mim Pride volunteered to gather more information about local standards currently in place for landlords and tenants. Mr. Pena will provide us with additional information. Rev. Gilbert will explore other potential partnerships for any educational endeavors regarding housing, landlords, and tenant rights.
- There was some discussion about the BHRC taking leadership to survey Berea residents about fair housing practices and equal opportunity for employment practices. We will continue this discussion at our next meeting.
- Plans for raising awareness in the community about fair housing will include
 - An article in the local paper
 - A proclamation by the Mayor
 - A Fair Housing Training Workshop to be held in Berea and co-sponsored by the Kentucky Human Rights Commission and the Berea Human Rights Commission. Proposed times and dates for the training were April 8, 22nd, or the 29th. The Public Library was suggested as a potential site. The workshop and training session would be conducted by Mr. Juan Pena and staff from the KHRC from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Ms. Janice Blythe agreed to contact the Madison County Public Library to explore a potential meeting day and time. She will report back to Rev. Gilbert.

The next meeting of the BHRC will be held April 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Berea City Hall Conference Room. The conversation and report session ended at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by

Janice B. Blythe
Member of BHRC