Berea Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting

June 03, 2019, 6:30 PM

CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

212 CHESTNUT STREET, BEREA, KY 40403

Present: Mim Pride (Chair), Peter Hille, (Secretary), Eef Fontanez (Treasurer), Randy Dinsmore, Rachel Burnside, Virginia Bland

Absent: Gene Stinchcomb (Vice-Chair)

Eric Hogsten (Administrative Assistant)

Guests: Mayor Bruce Fraley

Public: Jacque Bowling, Anthony Carpenter and Councilman John Payne

**Summary of Actions Taken**

* Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chair
* Greetings
* Virginia Bland was welcomed to the Commission and Commissioners and guests introduced themselves
* Announcements. NONE
* Agenda presented and approved. Motion: Hille; Second: Dinsmore
* Minutes of May 2019 meeting
* Approved with corrections. Motion: Burnside; Second Fontanez
* Treasurer’s Report
* Reminder that the report from the City is one month behind. (April information is provided by agreement with the Finance Office)
* Hogsten presented a report using the April information and including items committed by the Commission, but not yet appearing on the City report
* As of the April report from the City, we had $959.47 in accumulated expenditure. At the May meeting the BHRC approved additional expenditure of $1500 for Levitt AMP sponsorship.
* Report approved. Motion: Fontanez; Second: Hille

**New Business**

* Report on meeting with Mayor Fraley
* Pride reminded the Commissioners of the recent Municipal Order setting guidelines for the conduct of City meetings
* Pride reminded the Commissioners that at the May meeting the Commission considered requests from Levitt AMP and Berea Leadership Experience and voted $1,500 for Levitt AMP and tabled the BLE request.
* Pride knew that the Mayor was considering a new process for making grants so she met with the Mayor immediately following the meeting.
* The Mayor does plan to implement a process which will require that all those seeking grants from City General Fund monies be distributed directly by elected officials (at a special called meeting of the Council). Those seeking funds will apply through the Mayor’s office.
* This process does not apply to the Tourism Commission which is funded by a special designated tax and administered by a Commission that is designated by statute.
* Since the grant for Levitt AMP and BLE is for future events, the new policy will apply. The Levitt AMP grant from BHRC will not be approved.
* Mayor specifically approves of tabling at Levitt AMP and support such as advertising, space, staff time to support other causes consistent with our mission.
* When asked for guidance as to what would be approved, the Mayor explained that in future the Commission should plan events in advance and submit a budget at the time that other City departments submit budgets. Requests will be approved or not at that time. In general educational materials, advertising, refreshments, program materials, programming sponsored directly by the Commission would be approved. Pride noted that we have never been asked to submit a budget and that we are not included in the budget process.
* Hille asked if the new process would be in place in time to be used for current year budgeted funds and the Mayor said it would not be until after July 1. Hille asked the Mayor if the Commission could raise money from other sources and the Mayor said, “yes”. Hille asked if this new process would apply to externally raised funds and the Mayor said it would not.
* When asked how this would impact educational programs, the Mayor indicated that we could cooperate with other organizations, advertise, offer space, refreshments and staff time.
* Commissioners expressed disappointment that this decision came after the fact and impacted programs that we had funded in the past.
* Pride reported on URLTA Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act.
* This passed as law in KY, but the legislature went back to ammend the original statute to state that implementation requires an affirmative vote in each city or county prior to implementation. Only 34 cities and 4 counties have implemented the act
* KHRC believes that this is an important protection for KY citizens
* Tenants in KY have NO protection under their leases except those specifically stated in the lease. This is a particular problem in KY because there is no minimum state standard for habitability of a residential rental property. (Even basic maintenance of roofs, floors and heating systems are not necessarily requires)
* The Mayor suggested that information on URLTA be presented at a Council Work Session and suggested the date of July 16 at 5:30 PM. Commissioners should plan to be present..
* Burnside will follow up with Juan Pena.
* The goal for such a meeting would be to determine Council members’ interest in creating an ordinance to implement URLTA and to educate.
* The Commission agreed to move ahead by consensus.

**Old Business**

* Office Report
* One call requesting contact information for the HRC in Newport. There is not a Commission there. Caller referred to KHRC
* Work continues on nomination of Dr. Janice Blythe for KHRC Hall of Fame. Two recommendations received. One more needed. Deadline has been delayed to June 30, 2019.
* Financial report including encumbered amounts prepared
* Name tags can be made at Good Impressions on Glades Rd. They provide name tags for Tourism. Cost is $4.50. Recommended order is 7.
* We are recording meetings and trainings. The May meeting and Community Forum are available online on our website. We use Google Drive to back up files. We have 15GB and are currently using 11 GB. Each video is appros. 3 GB. If we run out space, Google will delete e-mail. We are required to keep all e-mail permanently. A YouTube page for the City of Berea is available for public access. We can use that, but it does not solve the problem of permanent storage. Purchase of 100 GB on Google Drive at a cost of $20.00 and purchase of a external hard drive is recommended.
* Motion to purchase 100GB Cloud Drive memory for $20.00/year with the option to increase to 200GB without further authorization; to spend up to $200.00 for an 8 terrabyte hard drive and to purchase seven name tags @$4.50 each. Motion Hille; Second Dinsmore Approved
* Hosting statewide Human Rights Commission meeting
* Hille will look into this matter. Please add to agenda for July
* Use of Social Media.
* Hogsten and Burnside met to discuss our social medial presence. They recommend creating an Instagram page. and taking pictures of events to post to Instagram and Face Book. Hogsten and Burnside will implement greater social media presence.
* Update on John G. Fee Award
* Deadline is July 26.
* Press release to City and Commission Face Book and newspaper.
* Rachel and Eef will review applicants and present nominations at the August meeting
* Tabling at Levitt AMP
* Per e-mail from Ali Blair received during this meeting “the committee” has created a new category for tabling at the concerts this season. The season cost for tabling for a municipal commission information booth has been updated to $1,500.
* Mayor asked for comment. Had no comment.
* Commission determined there were sufficient funds remaining in the current year budget to do this and also accommodate the cost of the CBS video license as tabled at the May meeting pending funds availability. With these expenditures the Commission will have spent nearly its entire budget for the year.
* Motion to table at Levitt AMP at the cost of $1,500 HIlle; Second: Fontanez. Passed. Bland opposed; Burnside abstained.
* Filming meetings
* As previously discussed, meetings and training being recorded and posted for public viewing. Arrangements are being made for long-term storage. We may need to purchase a remote mic to insure strong audio at group meetings/trainings.
* Purchase of film from CBS news coverage of the events of September 1968
* Invoice for purchase or rights presented. Rights include: public presentations, as part of a video, display at public events. We cannot post on the web site. Cost is $2,700. Motion to approve purchase: Hille; Second. Burnside. Approved.
* Report on presentations to Berea College Student Government Assoc. and Residence Life Staff.
* Burnside and Hogsten are preparing a new video
* Burnside will follow up with the new VP for Student Affairs and Hogsten will follow up with SGA leadership.

**Public Comment:**

Carpenter asked why so few cities and counties had approve URLTA. Hille offered that the proposed ordinance is generally seen as a benefit to tenants and landlords may not be enthusiastic. Landlords likely have the greater political power. Carpenter noted his own negative experiences as a tenant seeking a return of deposit. He also asked for clarification of the cost of tabling for the season prior to the e-mail ($250.00) and noted the timely increase.

Jacque Bowling objected strenuously to the votes to table at Levitt AMP and the purchase of the film from CBS. Commissioners objected strenuously to her characterization of them and their behavior.

7:55 PM Motion to adjourn passed.

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Eric Hogsten, AA]

Administrative Assistant

Minutes Recorded: June 03, 2019

Minutes Approved: July 01, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Mim Pride, Chair]

Berea Human Rights Commission

July 01, 2019