

City of Berea  
Human Rights Commission Minutes  
Monday, July 6, 2015

Present: Rev. Carla Gilbert (presiding), Ali Blair (recorder), Eef Fontanez, Mim Pride, David Shroyer, Gene Stinchcomb

Guests: Jenny Ceesay, Dorie Hubbard, Tom Hubbard, Dodie Murphy, Rebecca Parrish, Thom Price, Laura Robie, Jonathan Schinhofen, Mae Suramek, Charlie Wilton

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Gilbert.

Old Business:

- Introduction of May minutes. Motion to approve by Shroyer. Second by Stinchcomb.
- Introduction of June minutes. Stinchcomb brings up concerns about executive session necessity. Everyone is fine with minutes as is. Stinchcomb motions to approve. Pride seconds.
- Treasurer's report. No changes to report. Rev. Gilbert has receipt for office equipment. Will forward to Stinchcomb.
- Orientation for new members: Hopefully in August Juan Pena will join us for new member orientation. Shroyer hands out Kentucky HRC folders to commissioners. Rev. Gilbert hopes to invite new Richmond HRC members for orientation and open it to the public.
- Age-Friendly Berea: Shroyer updates. Survey is online. They hope for 500 completed and returned surveys. A guest questions if hard copies are available at the senior center. Ask if ministerial alliance could distribute. Blair offers info about potential grants the Age Friendly survey could secure for the City. Jeff Rubin's email: [jeffrubin@windstream.net](mailto:jeffrubin@windstream.net)
- Conversation on Race: Spring date; has yet to be set. Will update when Blythe has more info from Turley.
- Website: Lisa Vaughn is updating the city website. She is going out of town. Stinchcomb mentions that terms - should be updated. Rev. Gilbert will communicate with Vaughn.
- New office: 204 N Broadway Building, now with desk and printer. Rev. Gilbert proposes a selling her new Toshiba laptop to the HRC. Stinchcomb spoke with Mayor & Randy Stone about computer equipment from City. Blair states that waiting on city surplus equipment could take a while. Will revisit purchasing Rev. Gilbert's laptop at next meeting??
- Shroyer moves to make Ali the secretary. Pride seconds.
- Rev. Gilbert will hand carry the list for office needs to Randy Stone. Jenny Ceesay suggests "office warming" with lists of needs to distribute to the community. Dodie Murphy asks about ADA accessibility.

Americans With Disabilities Month: Rev. Gilbert will send letter to the Berea Citizen.

Clerical position update: Shroyer suggests moving this segment to end following new business

#### New Business:

- Racism in Berea: Mae Suramek, former Chair of the BHRC, expressed concerns about the recent gathering of cars and trucks seen at Walgreen's and Walmart flying Confederate Battle Flags. She was involved in helping to create dialogue and action that ended the "Rebel Run." She has had conversations with multiple folks leads her to wonder who's job it is to address this. Some say it's freedom of speech. Some say it's the community's job to speak out. She would like to see the city and HRC make a public statement, stating "It's the role of the HRC to take a stand."
- Jenny Ceesay - mother of 4 black children expressed concern over the flags. She would like to see dialogue among community members to discuss the hurt that this causes some in the community.
- Another guest expressed concerns that some neighborhoods are being targeted. Schinhofen states that a parade needs a permit. Thom Price asks if there could be something done in school and suggests some of the HRC Budget be spent. Dodie Murphy would like to see the Richmond and Lexington newspaper contacted.
- Stinchcomb feels strongly about this and wants to send a communication on behalf of the HRC to the Mayor and Pres of BC. This demo is against the values on which the community is based. Gene would like to construct but will be gone for 2 weeks. The HRC specifically charged with promoting tolerance and understanding.
- Shroyer suggests a specially called meeting of the HRC to invite Mayor, Library, Chief of Police and Fire Dept, President of Berea College, County and City officials, School superintendents and Principals, concerned community members, pastors, Judge Executive, Mayor, news media, Berea Citizen. LASA, Catholic Church, etc. He also suggests SURJ training and Undoing Racism workshops
- Fontanez and Blair talk about reaching the youth; diversity training in the school, film screening, music.
- Mim: in the short term - HRC should write a letter an invitation to a meeting of this commission because numerous members of the community express a concern about a resurgence of symbols associated with racism, but states "don't call it emergency meeting. Stop having emergency meetings but commit to a long term plan."
- Stinchcomb encourages formal complaints from affected community members regardless of the time limit.
- Set a date to reconvene. July 20th at 6:30? Council chambers or Acton Folk Center?

Visitors exit.

#### Back to old business.

- Rev Gilbert and Shroyer will go talk to Randy Stone about office needs. Clerical position needs to be approved by Randy Stone.
- Blair will get access to BHRC Facebook page and update and set up gmail and Google Drive.

Meeting adjourned.