Berea Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2019, 6:30 PM

CITY HALL, COMMUNITY ROOM  
212 CHESTNUT ST, BEREA, KY 40403.

Present: Miriam Pride (Chair), Eef Fontanez (Treasurer), Randy Dinsmore, Gene Stinchcomb (Vice Chair), Rachel Burnside, and Virginia Bland. Absent: Peter Hille (Secretary)

Eric Hogsten (Administrative Assistant)

Guests: Zinnia Hensley

Public: Bob New, Jacquelin Bowling

**Summary of Actions Taken**

* Meeting was called to order at 6:31
* The agenda was distributed
* Announcements.
  + Been invited to Civil Rights Hall of Fame on November 14, 6-8 PM, Lexington Singletary Center
  + Versailles passed a fairness ordinance, 14th city in Kentucky to do so
  + Minutes from the August and September Meeting

August meeting minutes tabled (video available online)

September meeting minutes approved. MOTION Stinchcomb; SECOND Fontanez

* + Note: Stinchcomb inquired if BHRC recommendation regarding a moment of silence instead of prayer at City Council meetings had been forwarded to the City, Pride affirmed it had been.
  + Treasure’s report for August
  + Hogsten reported BHRC has spent 70 dollars for public notices on date changes.

**New Business**

* Conversation with Zinnia Hensley, Berea PD

Hensley has been a social service worker, served in the Army Reserves and formerly was a professor at EKU. She was just hired for a new position with the Berea Police Department as Community Resource Coordinator. Her vision she brings to this work is unity, and wants to connect on this with the new Police Chief. Wants to bring together all resources and volunteers to see what we have and what we need. Also will serve as a liaison between the City and the community, working also as a victims advocate. Will seek to address unmet needs for homelessness, substance abuse, disability. Hopes to establish an Angel Program particularly to help people with substance abuse and their needs after treatment. She will also be doing police training, bringing in training resources to help the police understand how to appropriately address the needs of people they encounter who may have various disabilities such as autism. She plans to begin new programming in January. There will be a program at the Folk Center from noon to 4:00 PM on November 19 to inform the public about resources (she has a flyer available). She also plans to establish a Charity Tracker as a database of available services. This new position is likely to be a good resource for needs that fall outside the purview of the BHRC. Her office is in the Municipal Building on the second floor.

**Old Business**

* Office Report
  + Staff requested new fiscal year standing approval for staff to make purchases of supplies up to $200 in keeping with approved budget. Pride affirmed this is already established in our bylaws. Staff requested approval via minutes. Motion to allow purchases to be approved after the fact, approval to be recorded in minutes. Motion amended for minutes to recognize that BHRC bylaws already provide for such purchases up to $200 so that these minutes may be submitted as needed with invoices to constitute BHRC approval of such qualifying purchases, passed. MOTION Stinchcomb SECOND Dinsmore.
  + Hogsten will look at cost of updating Fee Award plaque and of smaller plaques for recipients. Budget limitations for this noted, Hogsten to research small plaque costs. Approval to update the large plaque passed. MOTION Fontanez SECOND Stinchcomb
* Report on accounting for donations – Stinchcomb
  + Tabled to next meeting.
* Adopt City Municipal Order, tabled.
  + Hogsten has sent it to City Attorney for review. Stinchcomb wanted more deliberation on public comment section of the document and how to meet the interest of making the BHRC meetings inclusive for the public, balancing the informality of our process with the need for structure that ensures all are treated equally. This would be a substantive change requiring further discussion.
* Report by Pride on plans regarding documentary film “Until They See It” about race and the judicial system. BHRC has been invited to join Berea Friends Meeting and the Woodson Center in co-sponsoring (at no cost) and promoting public participation in a program of viewings and discussions, four two-hour segments followed by discussion over a four month period beginning in January. General agreement to discuss further at future meetings as plans develop.
* Janice Blythe Award
  + Burnside has not heard back from the Berea College President, still looking for other connections through the College. Considering criteria and how to differentiate from the Fee Award.
* Update on Trainings with Berea College Entities
  + Hogsten has been in contact with SGA President and they have worked out that non-traditional students would be an appropriate audience particularly given their concerns and issues regarding dealing with landlords in off-campus housing. Stinchcomb noted some colleges and universities have lists of recommended off-campus housing, Hogsten noted this is not available through Berea College. Pride noted that we could start with educating students seeking off campus housing regarding their rights and responsibilities as tenants. In the past we have made a more general presentation for Residence Life staff about the BHRC and what we do.
* Dinsmore reminded that October is the National Employment for the Disabled Month. Mayor and he are planning on having a program in the 3rd week of January about Social Security Disability benefits.

Public Comment

Bowling asked about August Meeting minutes and where to find the video recordings online.

7:29 P.M. MOTION MOVED Dinsmore SECOND Burnside and CARRIED to ADJOURN.

Prepared By:

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[Eric Hogsten, AA]

Administrative Assistant

Minutes Recorded: October 7, 2019

Minutes Approved:

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[Miriam Pride, Chair]

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November 04, 2019