Berea Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting

February 3, 2019, 6:30 PM

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

Present: Mim Pride (Chair), Peter Hille (Secretary), Randy Dinsmore, Gene Stinchcomb (Vice Chair), Rachel Burnside, and Virginia Bland

Eric Hogsten (Administrative Assistant)

Guests:

Public: Jacque Bowling

Summary of Actions Taken:

* Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM
* The agenda was approved Motion: Hille Second: Dinsmore Passed
* Announcements.
  + Pride corrected information provided at January meeting. Fontanez’s term expires tonight. He did submit a written resignation prior to the January meeting and intended that to be his last meeting. Pride’s term expires 2/12 and Stinchcomb’s term expires 2/24. Pride talked to the Mayor today. He intends to reappoint Stinchcomb and hopes to make two additional appointments by 2/12. He has nine good candidates and is in conversation with prospects
  + Disability Social Security presentation was excellent. The crowd was disappointing, but the presentation will be available on line on City site. Members would like to see it on the BHRC site
  + Bland reported that she is in conversation with Chief Scott and Zinnia Hensley regarding PAC training for the Police Department. New officers will be trained first and then a plan will be established for training all members of the department every two years.
  + Stinchcomb reported his concern about a document published by the Police Department advising citizens on how to behave when stopped by police. The piece struck him as written from the police perspective. He undertook research about danger to police and danger to those stopped and was concerned the citizens are at significantly greater danger than officers. Hille noted that if race is considered, the danger to civilians rises considerably. Bland noted that the mentally ill are also at much higher than average danger when stopped by police. Stinchcomb will clarify data and report at the March meeting.
* Minutes from the January 2020 meeting were approved. Motion: Hille, Second: Stinchcomb
* Treasure’s report for months of November and December 2019 were approved. Motion: Stinchcomb; Second: Burnside.
  + Hogsten reports that cost of Google drive and Fee plaques are encumbered and   
    Commissioners were reminded that our financial reports are always reported one month behind because we meet early in the month.

**New Business**

* Officer elections. After discussion it was moved and approved to table the elections again until the March meeting. Moved: Burnside; Seconded: Stinchcomb. The discussion included discussion of requirements for appointing members and deadlines. There was some disagreement about which part of KRS statutes are applicable. The Commission acted on the basis of the Mayor’s intent to name new members and reappoint Stinchcomb prior to the March meeting. Pride will serve as Chair until 2/12; then Stinchcomb as Vice-Chair will Chair through the March meeting. Pride will sign February minutes.
* Pride asked for the Commissioners’ assistance in preparing a 2020-2021 budget based on the belief that the Council would be considering the budget on 2/4/20. After conversation with Gregory, it was learned that the budget currently being discussed is the amended 2019-20 budget. Preparation of the 2020-2021 budget has not begun. Pride reviewed with Gregory the challenges related to being an entity of the City that is not a department, BHRC is a line item in the Mayor’s budget and as such information about budget guidelines and deadlines are not shared. Gregory agreed to address the issue.
* Chair recommended that a group be identified to develop the 2020-2021 Budget. Stinchcomb and the treasurer will prepare a budget for March. Hille will review. Suggest increasing training budget to include Burnside and Bland. Reminder that the Mayor has created guidelines for what can be funded.
* Bi-annual financial report and Annual Report are due, but will be delayed until Chair is named. Hogsten to advise City Clerk of delay. Hogsten is collecting data for the report. Report is usually made in February.
* Charity Tracker has been set up on the office computer with Hogsten as the contact. Members can view the site and its operation by coming by the office. It was easy to set up and appears to be easy to use. There have been no referrals to BHRC and we have not yet made referrals. Expectation that this service 1. offers access to our services by referral from other entities and 2. offers Hogsten the ability to refer those that we cannot assist. There are 40 entities on the site including the City of Berea and the City of Richmond. This is a trial for us. There is no charge until October due to grant funding.

**Old Business**

* Office Report
  + Individual Fee Plaques have been delivered to the Mayor. The expectation is that they will be presented at the March 17th Council meeting which might also be the time when the Annual and Financial Reports are presented to the Council
  + Office will be closed February 7 and 21.
  + Hogsten is working with Berea College SGA and Pena to schedule training for SGA.
  + Hogsten continues to collect data on Fairness Ordinances
* Status of Conduct of Meetings document. No report. Discussion:
  + Retain time limits on public comment
  + Deadline for posting minutes and video are unrealistic and this section might be eliminated since this process is no longer in our control.
  + Remove redundant material
* Report on Fee Award Criteria. Recommended:
  + Youth eligible for Youth Award should be younger that 22 years.
  + Award to be re-named Blythe Award
  + Award should recognize work in Berea that promotes social justice and advocates against discrimination.
  + Awards should be granted at the sole discretion of the Commission and the Commission reserves the right to elect not to give the awards.
  + Bland and Burnside will present revised language for award criteria in March.
* No report on proposed meeting of HRD’s. Date will be discussed with Pena at March meeting.
* Report on accounting for donations. Stinchcomb
  + Stinchcomb met with Susan Meeks to discuss how donations to BHRC would be handled. Meeks indicated that donations to BHRC would have to go through the budget and be approved by Council.
  + Commission can work with an entity that has 501c3 tax status
  + Commissioners will determine how best to fund projects on a project-by-project basis.
* Report “When They See Us”
  + Pride reported that the Library used for the showing was full (40+people). Each showing is one hour with a one hour discussion following. Next episode will be March 13 at 6:30 in the Madison County Library Berea. The films deals with racism in the judicial system.

Comments for the good of the order:

There will be changes in policies and procedures with change in City Manager and City Clerk. Gregory is aware of the challenges BHRC faces because BHRC is not a department. This includes access to information about Human Resource policy, budgeting and communication in general. He is committed to working to improve this situation. Remember that we chose to be located away from City Hall to insure confidentiality. This does make communication more difficult.

Hille advised that his work conflicts with the March meeting. He reminded commissioners that members who are absent from the meeting in which elections are held cannot be elected to any office. He reminded commissioners that he has provided written permission to elect him to the position of Secretary if that is the will of the Commission.

Hille move a resolution of appreciation of the work of Miriam Pride for her able, dedicated, committed and outstanding service as Chair of the Berea Human Rights Commission. Dinsmore seconded. Approved.

No public comment.

Motion to adjourn.

Prepared By:

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[Eric Hogsten, AA]

Administrative Assistant

Minutes Recorded: MONTH 00, 2019

Minutes Approved:

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[Mim Pride, Chair]

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