**Berea Human Rights Commission**

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2020, 6:30 PM

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

Commissioners Present: Gene Stinchcomb (Vice Chair), Peter Hille (Secretary), Randy Dinsmore, Janelle Davenport, Peanut Johnson, and Virginia Bland

Absent: Rachel Burnside

Guests: Juan Pena. KHRC; Mayor Bruce Fraley; City Administrator David Gregory; Council Member John Payne; Council Member David Rowlette

Members of the Public: Jacque Bowling; Sandy Rowlette; Bob New

**Meeting called to order by acting Chair Gene Stinchcomb at 6:36 PM**

**Summary of Actions Taken:**

Mayor Fraley welcomed new BHRC members Johnson and Davenport; announced re-appointment of Stinchcomb for three year term.

Announcements: BHRC administrative assistant not able to prepare materials and attend this meeting due to illness. Office report tabled.

Agenda approved: motion, Johnson; second, Dinsmore

February minutes approved: motion Hille; second Johnson

Treasures report, tabled: motion Hille; second Dinsmore

**New Business**

FY 2021 Budget reviewed and approved: draft distributed, reviewed by Stinchcomb, including funds for training sponsored by Ky League of Cities, January 2021; most lines comparable to last year’s budget (office expenses, printing, advertising legal announcements, educational programs)

Motion, Johnson; second, Hille

Question (Hille) for Mayor and Administrator: Can funds be moved between line items? Administrator Gregory, it is one line in the city budget but must be broken out and reported on by budget lines.

**Old Business**

Office report: tabled due to absence of Administrative Assistant.

Election of officers:

Chair—tabled to March by executive decision of the acting chair upon lack of candidates willing or able to serve

Vice Chair, Stinchcomb: motion, Hille; second, Johnson

Secretary, Hille: motion, Johnson; second, Stinchcomb

Treasurer, Bland: motion, Johnson; second, Hille

Annual report to City Council: tabled due to staff absence

Conduct of meetings document: report by Stinchcomb, review is ongoing

Gathering of HRC statewide in Berea: Hille reported on discussion with Pena of potential dates; state is not having a meeting this year so no schedule conflict with that this summer. Pena to send possible dates; discussion of a one day event, possibly on a Friday, coincide with a First Friday event, encourage people to stay over; possibly in August. Purpose: share information and experience, e.g., learn from other HRC’s where there have been Fairness Ordinances; opportunity to share Berea’s unique history.

John G. Fee Award: Bland reported on work with Burnside: Youth Award (under 20 years of age) to be renamed in honor of Janice Blythe; should recognize work in Berea that promotes social justice and advocates against discrimination; should be a Berea resident and someone working in Berea.

Report on police stops: Stinchcomb reported on discussion with BPD Community Relations Coordinator Zinnia Hensley regarding guidance on the BPD website for civilians if stopped by police. Noted wording from perspective of police, cautioning civilians to be aware that the engagement is stressful for officers. Stinchcomb noted wording could be improved to take in the perspective of the civilian being stopped and the danger. He cited 38 police officers killed in the line of duty in the US in 2019 compared to more than 970 civilians shot by police. This could be presented in a way that is more sensitive to this disparity, and Zinia will review the wording on the web site for possible improvement.

Public comment:

David Rowlette appreciated the disability workshop

Pena expressed appreciation for the work on the BHRC and the opportunity to present the educational session prior to the meeting

Bowling attended the Social Security summit and found it beneficial, hoped more would be able to see it. Also appreciate the meeting regarding hiring of persons with disabilities.

Stinchcomb noted BHRC would appreciate help promoting these meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.