
**Berea Human Rights Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 25, 2026

Location: 3rd Floor Conference Room, Berea City Hall

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair, Felecia Ballard.
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II. Roll Call

Present:

- Felecia Ballard
- Sharyn Mitchell
- Mim Pride
- Janel Lakes Davenport
- Susie Harris
- Heather Johnson

Absent:

- Doug Martin

Welcome to Visitors:

- Jackie Stephens, President of Berea Community High School's JAG Program
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III. Approval of Minutes

- **February 25, 2026 Minutes** approved with name-spelling corrections.
 - Motion: Janel Lakes Davenport moved to approve minutes after corrections. Seconded by Mim Pride. Vote: Motion Carried.
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IV. Treasurer's Report

- Report was presented-no changes since last meeting.
 - Accepted by Common Consent.

V. Unfinished Business

- **2026 Juneteenth Celebration**

- Felecia Ballard had a telephone conversation with Ali Blair, and discussed the following:
 - Berea Community School is confirmed for June 14, 2026, and we will be in the front lawn.
 - Discussed having the time begin at 3 p.m., with programming running from 4-7 p.m.
 - We missed the cycle timing for the KY Arts Council grant this year, but could apply for next year.
 - Could still apply for the South Arts grant.
 - Application is due mid-April, 2026.
 - We can submit up to 5 artists from in-state or out-of-state.
 - Must have a contract in place with each artist.
 - Has to meet the grant's criteria.
 - Requires matching funds - Ali believed our funding could be used for part of it and is checking whether that has to be financial or can be in-kind.
 - Setup
 - Basic sound system and generator would be \$1,275.
 - City stage has no cost, but we would have to provide the tent and more infrastructure, so that could total \$5,300.
 - The Commission discussed how much of these costs would be absorbed by AMP Berea. Ali stated she may have some funds available in her coffers, but asked how much we had available.
 - Ali expressed concern that without a stage, it may be difficult for some in the back to be able to see visual performers such as dancers.
 - The commission stated that previous events had no stage, and without a grant or some other additional funding, the extra cost was too much.
 - The final decision will be made during future work sessions, with Ali in attendance, so we can get more specific information concerning Levitt Amp's contributions.
- Madison County Juneteenth Weekend
 - Felecia met with that committee the previous evening and presented a summary to the Commission:
 - They discussed basing their events on the same weekend as Berea's, June 13 & 14, 2026, at Dillingham Heights in Richmond, KY.
 - They have split up their work into committees, and Felecia said if we saw an area that any of us could contribute to, let her know.
 - That group is meeting again on April 1 at 7 p.m. We are to let Felecia know if we would like to attend, so we can get the meeting link.

- They are still looking for contributors/exhibitors with material that reflects the spirit of Juneteenth.
 - Felecia Ballard stated she spoke with Billy DuVall, Jr, and he let her know that he was willing to perform free of charge. He just requests some gas money and requests that he perform later in the program.
 - Sharyn Mitchell stated that Steve Phan from Camp Nelson could table at our event. She is expecting to have a final answer from him soon.
- **2026 Budget**
 - Janel Lakes Davenport presented a tentative budget that she and Mim Pride put together:
 - Swag: including wristbands, ink pens, etc.
 - We need to determine quantities and sources.
 - Felecia suggested possibly using Amazon, and to focus on useful items.
 - Susie said BCHS could engrave keychains, and the Commission decided to start with 25 items.
 - We would preferably like to have some items in time for Juneteenth, then maybe acquire more for Spoonbread
 - Sharyn Mitchell suggested bookmarks.
 - Office supplies: including printer, ink, folding table, tent, tablecloth with logo.
 - Awards: John G Fee award needs to be updated to be called the Janice Blythe Award with her picture, which requires replacing the metal piece.
 - Susie Harris mentioned we could also get shirts with our logo.
 - Felecia stated she really believes we need a printer.
 - The Commission discussed how to proceed with presenting this budget to the City:
 - The City is meeting to finalize the budget for the next Fiscal Year.
 - Mim suggests requesting at least 2k for programming and 1500 for operational costs.
 - Sharon offered her new printer for our use, if we had to wait until next FY to purchase one.
 - Commission discussed if we needed to add an amount for advertising, e.g., newspaper ads:
 - Janel stated she had never paid for anything printed in the newspaper in the past. They published our announcements for free as a courtesy.
 - Felecia suggested that maybe the JAG students could make TikTok, reels, etc.
 - The Commission decided to go ahead with submitting an official budgetary request now for the upcoming Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026.
 - Motion: Mim Pride moved to submit the budget with 3k for programming and 2k for operations. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion Carried.

- **Website Updates**
 - Felecia Ballard stated we need to remove the 2016 workshop information and we still need September & October 2025 meeting minutes and agendas.
 - Heather Johnson will get those items submitted to Daniel Brindley and ask him to remove the workshop information.
- **News Release**
 - Skipped

2025 Annual Report

- Sharyn Mitchell will work on completing that report
- **Proclamation for Older Americans Month**
 - Mim Pride stated that this was a mutual project with Katie Heckman and Berea Home Village, and foreseeing no issues with what she put together, we should just let her submit that to the City.
 - Motion: Sharyn Mitchell moved to submit Proclamation as written by Katie Heckman. Seconded by Mim Pride. Vote: Motion Carried.
- **JAG Request for National Competition (Skipped to this New Business Agenda Item due to Guest, Jackie Stephens', Schedule)**
 - Jackie explained the JAG Program:
 - It is a nationwide 501 (c) 3 organization.
 - It teaches skills that are not taught in high school core classes, such as financial literacy, soft skills, employability, and basic prep for life after high school.
 - The program has competitions where participants can show the skills they have learned through the program. Five students at BCHS made it to the national competition in Salt Lake City, UT:
 - They have had issues with fundraising, but are asking local organizations to contribute \$50-\$1000, if they can.
 - On April 2, Texas Roadhouse is having a fundraiser where 10% of your dinner ticket will be donated to JAG.
 - Jackie then discussed an idea of JAG hosting an event where the public can come and learn about scams, identity theft, and online safety:
 - They would be collaborating with Operation Hope.
 - Felecia Ballard stated the BHRC would like to be involved as well. Jackie said they are looking at April 25 as a potential date from 2-4 p.m.
 - Felecia proposed the Community Room at the Berea Public Library as a possible location.
 - The JAG students could make a flyer.
 - The BHRC could provide drinks/snacks.
 - Sharyn suggested that Jackie and Susie Harris come to the next Kiwanis meeting to ask for a donation.
 - The Commission took a group photo with Jackie Stephens.
 - Susie Harris stated that JAG still needed around 4k for the trip, and the dates for it are April 28-May 2.

- **Abolish Slavery Resolution**
 - The Commission discussed the status of Kentucky House Bill 112. The last update was March 13, 2026, where the legislature's website states it was returned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Mim Pride stated that maybe this is not the best time to present this to the City
 - The Commission discussed and concluded that, moving forward, we take it off the Agenda unless we find a compelling reason to revisit it

 - **2026 KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame Award**
 - Sharyn Mitchell stated she had begun the process of putting together an application for Kent Gilbert
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VI. New Business

- **Community Awareness Event - Online Safety & Scam Awareness**
 - This was discussed previously in the meeting with Jackie Stephens from JAG

 - **Stumbling Stones Production**
 - The Commission discussed the fact that, despite some initial interest by some members in our community in having the play here, there no longer seems to be any movement
 - It is a one-person play by Appalshop
 - Mayor Fraley forwarded a communication to Felecia Ballard to see if the BHRC wanted to coordinate with Berea College to arrange a showing
 - Mim Pride stated she was not getting any responses
 - After a discussion, it was decided this was no longer an issue for the BHRC

 - **Establish Work Sessions for Juneteenth Planning**
 - The Commission will have a virtual work session on April 1. from 11:15 - 1:15
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VII. Announcements

- **Janel Lakes Davenport's term ends April 17, 2026**
 - Mayor Fraley has already asked her to remain on the Commission, but Janel is declining. She has already served on it for two terms, and she is needed at her businesses. She did offer to remain until after our Juneteenth event.
 - Felecia and Sharyn asked if she could accept another term, then resign after Juneteenth
 - Janel stated she would do her best to participate as much as possible until after the event

- **End of Year Celebration for Telford Achievers Program**
 - Felecia Ballard sent flyers with information.
 - She asked us to let her know if we wanted tickets.
 - The event takes place April 18 - doors open at 5 pm - event starts at 6 p.m.
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VIII. Comments

- No comments
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IX. Adjournment

- Motion: Mim Pride moved to adjourn. Seconded by Janel Lakes Davenport. Vote: Motion Carried.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.
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Action Items

- Schedule additional work sessions.
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Prepared by: Heather Johnson, BHRC Secretary

Approved by: *Felecia J. Ballard*