

Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) Meeting Minutes
Berea City Hall, Randy Stone Room
February 26, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Chair Sharyn called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Sharyn Mitchell, Aaron Banther (Our Land of Promise), Pat Gailey (Abolish Slavery KY), Katie Heckman, Felicia Ballard, Robin Adams (City of Berea), Janel Lakes Davenport, and Peter Hille (Guest).

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

- **Minutes:** Janel presented the previous meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Katie, seconded by Felicia. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Financial Report:** The current balance is \$1,289.29. Discussion on contacting Susan regarding the \$1,000 allocation to First Friday for last year's Juneteenth Celebration.

Announcements

- March 11: Abolish Slavery event at the Capitol Rotunda.

Presentation by Peter Hille

- Former BHRC commissioner Peter Hille discussed the Commission's strategic planning and motto, which he will provide to the group.
- The 50th-anniversary video of the Commission was shown at First Friday in fall 2018. CBS has agreed to license the video to the BHRC but prohibits online distribution.
- Peter proposed a resolution to allow the Commission to show the video within CBS's limitations.
- Sharyn read the resolution. Motion by Katie, seconded by Felicia, to adopt it as part of the Commission's ongoing mission. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Calendar of Events

- **Juneteenth Celebration:**
 - Aaron Banther met with Ali, who expressed interest in hosting the event again.
 - Our Land of Promise is willing to support the Commission.
 - A band, Honey Child, is booked for Friday, June 13.
 - NAACP is considering a 5K in Berea on June 14, but Parks and Rec have concerns. Richmond may be an alternative location.
 - Tourism and First Friday cannot hold events on the same day. Alternative scheduling for Friday and Saturday is being considered.
 - Uncertainty remains regarding the \$1,000 contribution from Berea College for last year's event.

- Sharyn suggested requesting an additional \$1,000 be added to the budget for this year's Juneteenth event.
- Pat Gailey (Abolish Slavery KY) requested guidance on participating in the event after being previously denied a table. Further discussion will occur after her presentation next month.
- Potential for two guest speakers to attend the event.

Commission Training

- Juan Peña will conduct Commission training in March.

Administrative Procedures

- **Minutes and Agendas:**
 - Robin will receive minutes and agendas, post them as required, and maintain a binder of approved minutes.
 - Direct complaints are forwarded to Zinnia, who then refers them to Frankfort or Louisville.
 - Minutes will be sent to Sharyn for editing, then approved by the Commission before printing with a signature block.
 - Approved minutes will be sent to Daniel and Robin.
 - Peter will provide minutes from 2020-2021.

Budget and Motion for Juneteenth Event

- Motion by Sharyn to increase the budget by \$2,000 for the 2025 Juneteenth Celebration, contingent on the event occurring.
- Seconded by Katie and Felicia. Motion carried unanimously.
- Janel will draft a letter to the Mayor requesting the budget increase.

New Business

- **Complaint Filing Process:** Juan Peña emphasized ensuring all distributed materials contain correct contact information for the Louisville office.
 - Sharyn will create labels with updated contact details and take them to the print shop.
- **Name Badges:**
 - Need to verify if Mim has a name badge; if not, one will be ordered.
- **Visitor Comments:**
 - Discussion on improving audio-visual equipment and options for live streaming meetings.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.