
Berea Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22, 2026

Location: 3rd Floor Conference Room, Berea City Hall

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Felecia Ballard.
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II. Roll Call

Present:

- Felecia Ballard
- Mim Pride
- Doug Martin
- Susie Harris
- Heather Johnson

Absent:

- Sharyn Mitchell
 - Janel Lakes Davenport
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III. Approval of Minutes

- **March 25, 2026 Minutes** were read during the meeting.
 - Motion: Mim Pride moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion Carried.
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IV. Treasurer's Report

- Report was discussed-no changes since last meeting.
 - Accepted by Common Consent.
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V. Unfinished Business

- **2026 Juneteenth Celebration**

- Madison County Juneteenth Weekend**

- Felecia Ballard had a telephone conversation with Ali Blair and discussed the following:
 - Scheduling another work session with her and the Commission.
 - Ali suggested we move the location to the Berea Skate Park.
 - This would reduce the expense of setting up the stage and production costs because we would split the costs with Berea Amp, which is having a concert there the previous evening.
 - This move would also make our event more in line with the other Levitt Amp concerts.
 - Our share would be \$2,650.00
 - Ali also discussed the possibility of moving her concert to the BCHS lawn, which would also split costs.
 - Mim Pride asked whether that cost was included in the \$2k we have committed to the event, or would it be an additional cost.
 - Felecia Ballard stated we could get that answered during the work session we schedule with her.
 - The Commission discussed the advantages/disadvantages of having the event at the Skate Park, including:
 - It has shaded areas.
 - It is a field that can make navigation difficult for some.
 - Restrooms and water fountains are on site.
 - There is room for the food trucks on the side, and that puts them close to the shelter that has picnic tables.
 - There is a very large tent available that provides a cover for the stage and sound equipment.
 - Felecia Ballard updated the Commission on the Madison County Event
 - They have nine vendors.
 - They are blocking Pine Street and some of the street that comes up the side of Dillingham Park.
 - They are having the ROTC, who will be performing some reenactments.
 - They also plan to have educational booths, merchandise tables, food trucks, etc.
 - Their event will be on June 13th from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 - They have selected a theme which will be "Rooted in History - Rising in Power."
 - Felecia also discussed with Ali what the Commission needed to work on at this stage. These included the following:
 - Since we already have the headline act and Billy DuVall, Jr, we need to narrow down our other performers and tables.
 - Suggestions included JAG, Berea College, Union Church, and First Christian Church.
 - Susie Harris said she could get JAG to make a keychain sample to see if we would like them at our table.

- Felecia asked Doug Martin if Southern would be interested in participating, and he said he would check on that.
 - Mim Pride stated that Levitt Amp provided tables and chairs for vendors.
- The Commission discussed setting up the work session with Ali Blair for next week. We let Felecia know our availability.
- **2026 Budget**
 - Mim Pride presented a tentative budget:
 - Mim is concerned with asking for \$5,000.
 - Mayor Fraley indicated that if we were to ask for the same \$3500 we received last year, he saw no problems with getting it approved by City Council
 - Mim wondered if we could purchase some of the one-time items from this year's budget, thereby decreasing the request for next year.
 - Mim questioned if we wanted to proceed with requesting the increased amount.
 - Felecia Ballard stated that we should present our request with the most important items prioritized. These would include:
 - Since the Mayor specifically mentioned more community awareness events, we would need funds for them and promotional items for those events.
 - Folding table, tent, and tablecloth with logo.
 - Heather Johnson questioned if we could ask for the full amount and see if he proposed something in between.
 - The Commission discussed advertising and associated costs.
 - Heather stated that Janel Lakes Davenport said the Citizen ran our ads for free as a courtesy.
 - Susie Harris suggested WBON. Susie said she would contact them.
 - Susie said her JAG group was working on a TikTok reel.
 - Mim stated our funds come from the Mayor's budget.
 - Felecia stated we should present the budget as stated with our priorities and justification for the increase, including our history with hosting previous Juneteenth events, having an increased amount of other events, and more collaboration with the community, e.g. Madison County and the local schools.
 - The Commission discussed other potential future co-presenters that align with our focus on Housing, Employment, and Public Accommodation, such as the Social Security Administration, KY Career Center, RITI, the Madison Co Tenants Union, Vocational Rehab, etc.
 - Mim and Felecia agreed that promotional items are our way of advertising and increasing our visibility in the community.
 - Doug Martin stated if we remove the \$150 for advertising, that decreases our request to \$4,850. Mim reiterated if we pay for those one-time expenses with this year's funds, that would further decrease our request.

- **Website Updates**

- Felecia Ballard asked for the status of the website updates.
 - Heather Johnson stated she contacted Daniel Brindley at the City of Berea. The 2016 workshop information has been removed, and the September & October 2025 meeting minutes and agendas have been posted.

- **2025 Annual Report**

- Sharyn Mitchell was not present to give an update on that report, but Felecia said she was sure Sharyn would have something for our May meeting.
- Susie Harris stated that Sharyn reached out to her about some ideas for a flyer for our Juneteenth celebration if we decide to have JAG design them. Felecia said that the Richmond group had already designed flyers that included our information, which would probably suffice.

- **Proclamation for Older Americans Month**

- Felecia shared that the Proclamation was sent to Robin Adams at the City, and we are to attend the Berea City Council meeting on May 5 at 6:30 where it will be presented.

- **2026 KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame Award**

- Felecia Ballard shared that Sharyn Mitchell was continuing to work on the application for Kent Gilbert.
- Felecia also stated Mim Pride knew names of people willing to send in letters of recommendation.
- Mim asked if there was an online application form, and Felecia stated there was and proceeded to read some of the application's requirements.
- The deadline is June 30, 2026.

- **Community Awareness Event**

- Felecia Ballard asked Susie Harris for an update.
 - Susie said they had the Scam Awareness event planned for May 23.
 - However, she received an email from Sherry at Operation Hope saying their funding was cut so that program was no longer in this area.
 - In another email Sherry stated we could still move forward, but it would be a virtual event.
 - The Commission discussed other possible presenters such as banks who are already set up for these types of events. Susie said she will look into that.
 - Currently, we are scheduled for May 23, from 2-4 p.m. in the Community Room at the Berea Public Library.
 - Doug Martin mentioned the Reality Store as a possible presenter, but Susie pointed out that this event was geared more specifically for older adults.
 - Felecia stated it would be good to get some flyers made to promote this event.
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VI. New Business

- **John G. Fee Award**

- Dr. Janice Blythe Youth Award**

- Felecia stated she would like to get that information and application packets out to the schools, churches, and other community organizations by August, which will hopefully garner more submissions than we have received in the past.
 - Heather Johnson will work on putting that information together along with a press release for The Citizen.
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VII. Announcements

- **Commissioners Presented**

- Felecia Ballard stated the Telford YMCA is going to offer Womens Self Defense classes. You have to be 13 or older. It is free, and you can register online. The first class is May 3.
 - Susie Harris shared that JAG did raise enough funds to go the national competition in Salt Lake City.
 - Mim Pride shared there was a woman at Middleton Baptist Church needing a bone marrow transplant. There will be an event on the lawn at Union Church on May 1 to swab cheeks to screen potential donors.
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VIII. Comments

- No comments
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IX. Adjournment

- Motion: Mim Pride moved to adjourn. Seconded by Susie Harris. Vote: Motion Carried.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
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Action Items

- Schedule work session with Ali Blair for next week.
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Prepared by: Heather Johnson, BHRC Secretary

HJ

Approved by:

Felecia J. Ballard