

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024 (Draft)

The Black History Commission of Arkansas met in person and via Teams in the Arkansas State Archives offices in Little Rock, AR on Thursday February 15, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Commissioners attending in person: Jesse Hargrove, Walter Washington, Lynda Johnson, and via Teams: Pat Johnson. Arnetta Bradford and Caleb Williams were absent. Reverend Lattimore's replacement has not been appointed yet.

Staff present via Teams or in person: ASA Director David Ware, ASA African American History Program Coordinator, Tatyana Oyinloye, ASA Administrative Specialist III April Goff and DAH Director Marty Ryalls.

Guests in attendance: grant applicants Ti King and Karen Steward, and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Hargrove. The commissioners, staff and guests then introduced themselves.

The commission reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and after the motion by Patricia Johnson and second by Washington they were approved.

Ms. Goff presented the financial report, and the report was accepted.

The commission then moved on to Sykes Grant applications. There was only one grant application this cycle. "Wiley Jones: Arkansas Black History Podcast" presented by Ti King. After some discussion there was questions about budget items for Salaries which are not covered under the grant guidelines. After motion by Washington and second by Lynda Johnson the application for \$3500.00 was approved once the applicant corrects the budget to suite Grant guidelines.

Next the commission moved on to the African American History Coordinator's report. She reported that the February symposium went well. She asked for topics and speaker suggestions for the June symposium. The commission asked that staff talk to the communications people about making the video links for previous symposiums more visible on the website. Ms. Oyinloye mentioned that the lady from Urban Magazine that had talked to the chair at a symposium in the past had contacted her asking about sponsorship from the commission. After some discussion commissioner Washington asked her to contact the lady and get more details as to Arkansas connection and cost for the commission to consider at a later meeting.

Next the commission moved on to other sponsorship requests and while Dr. Ware collected information for them, they moved on to consideration of the yearly stipend and Travel reimbursement payments decision. After the motion by Patricia Johnson to continue to pay these items as they currently were and second by Lynda Johnson the commission approved the motion.

Dr. Ware then presented the sponsorship requests. The Arkansas Historical Association invited the BHCA to sponsor one of the breaks at the AHA annual conference. The amount requested was \$250. After a motion by Patricia Johnson to sponsor the event and second by Lynda Johnson the commission approved the motion.

Then he presented the request from Jason Irby to co-sponsor a 9th annual Arkansas Heritage Celebration of Black History Month and Legend Among Us recognition in Little Rock in the amount of \$1000 to cover the reception portion of the event. After the motion by Patricia Johnson to sponsor the event and second by Washington the commission approved the motion.

The commission turned to the election of officers for the next year after some discussion and motion by Lynda Johnson and second by Pat Johnson the commission elected to continue with the current officers.

Commissioner Lynda Johnson brought up the problems with attendance and stressed to the commissioners the importance of attending to the duties they agreed to. The request was made for the rules of the commission to be sent out to the commissioners.

Ms. Johnson also brought up a more formal way of allowing public comment in a way that does not disturb the proceedings. The commission requests that a public comment session be added to the agenda to allow a specific time for visitors to speak.

Commissioner Washington Suggested several software platforms that may better serve for meetings and event registration. The staff said they would pass along the information to the communications section of the department.

The Commission confirmed the date and time of the next meeting as May 16,2024, 12 noon hopefully at the UAPB in Pine Bluff.

After a motion by Washington and second by Pat Johnson the meeting adjourned.

David Ware
Secretary

April Goff
Administrative Specialist III