

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

The Black History Commission of Arkansas met in person and via Teams in the Heritage meeting room at the Division of Heritage headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday February 13, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Commissioners attending in person: Jesse Hargrove, Caleb Williams, Pat Johnson, Arnetta Bradford, and Lynda Johnson. Walter Washington's and Reverend Lattimore's replacements have not been appointed yet.

Staff present in person: ADPHT Secretary Shae Lewis, ADPHT Chief of Staff Suzanne Grobmyer, DAH Director Marty Ryalls, DAH Deputy Director Laura McClellan, ADPHT Chief of Communications Katie Fite, ASA Director David Ware, ASA African American History Program Coordinator, Tatyana Oyinloye, and ASA Administrative Specialist III April Goff.

Guests in attendance: Jennifer Siccardi, Liaison from the Governor's Office and representatives of each of the grant applicants.

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 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 Caleb Williams and second by Pat Johnson they were approved.

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

The commission then moved on to Sykes Grant applications. First was "Dunbar Honors Legacy Series: Icons of the Dunbar Historic District" from the Dunbar Historic Neighborhood Association. After some discussion and questions from the commission with motion from Lynda Johnson and second by Bradford the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3500.00.

Second was "Robinson Cemetery Preservation and Documentation" by Pine Street Community Museum and Robinson Cemetery. After some discussion and questions with motion from Williams and second from Lynda Johnson the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$1953.46.

The commission then moved on to the Coordinator's report. Oyinloye discussed results of February symposium and plans for the June symposium. Names of several speakers were suggested for the event and the commission requested that they be sent calendar invite for event to remind them of date. There was discussion of publicity and calendar conflicts effecting attendance at symposiums.

The commission then moved to Old Business. Discussion of rule changes was tabled. The suggestion from last meeting to purchase promotional materials was discussed and Goff was

given a list of items to get quotes on for purchase approval. Locations for upcoming meetings were discussed, and several locations were discussed.

The commission moved to election of officers Bradford was nominated for chair by Pat Hohnson and seconded by Williams. After discussion and no further nominations, the commission elected Arnetta Bradford as Chair. Bradford nominated Lynda Johnson as Vice Chair and it was seconded by Pat Johnson. After discussion the commission elected Lynda Johnson as Vice Chair.

The commission then moved to annual vote on Receiving stipends and travel reimbursements. After discussion and then motion by Pat Johnson and second by Bradford the commission elected to continue to receive both at the current rates.

There was then a discussion of training and information for new commissioners. Goff offered to reinstate the commissioner handbook which includes info on commission processes and procedures and the history of commission.

There was then discussion of work commissioners could do to spread word about the commissions mission.

Ware introduced a request from the Arkansas Historical Association for the BHCA to sponsor a break at the AHA annual conference in April. After some discussion and motion by Bradford and second by Williams the commission voted to approve the request in the amount of \$500.00.

Williams then suggested the commission make arrangements to participate in Juneteenth event around the state. Director Ryalls mentioned the Juneteenth celebration at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center on June 21st. The commission agreed and requested the staff make arrangements for the commission to have a presence at the event.

Last was a discussion of the locations for the next 3 meetings, it was decided to meet at DAH headquarters in Little Rock in May, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives in August and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives.

After motion from Pat Johnson and second by Williams the meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

David Ware
Secretary

April Goff
Administrative Specialist III

Approved May 1, 2025