

## **Black History Commission of Arkansas**

### **Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**November 16, 2023**

The Black History Commission of Arkansas met in person and via Teams in the Arkansas State Archives offices in Little Rock, AR on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners attending in person: Jesse Hargrove and Lynda Johnson, and via Teams: Elise Hampton and Pat Johnson. Arnetta Bradford and Walter Washington 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 Oyinyo, and ASA Administrative Specialist III April Goff.

Guests in attendance: grant applicants Ani-ya Beasley, Dianne Curry, George Wilson and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Hargrove. The commissioners, staff and guests then introduced themselves.

The commission reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and after motion by Patricia Johnson and second by Lynda Johnson they were approved with a few minor corrections.

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

The commission then moved on to Sykes Grant applications. First was "Restoring of Macedonia Baptist Cemetery" presented by George Wilson. After some discussion with motion by Lynda Johnson and second by Pat Johnson the application for \$3300.00 was approved.

Second was "African American Distinguished Leaders Who aided the election of President Bill Clinton 1992" presented by Dianne Curry. After some discussion and the recommendation from Commissioner Hampton that the project managers work to link it to the education standards for better access by schools and with motion by Elise Hampton and second by Lynda Johnson the application for \$3050.00 was approved.

Third was the "Thomas Bass and the Hot Springs of Arkansas" presented by Ani-ya Beasley. After some discussion with motion by Lynda Johnson and second by Hampton the commission approved \$3469.00.

Next the commission moved on to the African American History Coordinator's report. Oyinyo reported that plans were moving along for the February Symposium. After some discussion the commissioners settled on "The State of Race Relations and Education in Arkansas Today". Commissioners were asked to send suggested speaker information to Ms. Oyinyo. The budget limit for the symposium was set at \$2500.00 after motion by Lynda Johnson and second by Hampton. The commission requested that Ms. Oyinyo provide a list of grants for the last 2

fiscal years at the February meeting for the commissioners to review. Lynda Johnson and Elise Hampton agreed to speak at the symposium.

The Commission confirmed the date and Time of the next meeting as February 15,2024 at the ASA offices in Little Rock.

Commissioner Hampton mentioned that Garbo Hearne had contacted her about the Commission collaborating with her on an event in the Dunbar School community. Chair Hargrove said he would get with her for more details.

The commission expressed interest in meeting sites outside of Little Rock and possibly having an educational retreat for the commissioners to learn more about their duties and the government procedures necessary for their work. Goff said she will compile a list of possible locations and costs involved and present it at the February 2024 meeting.

As Commissioner Hampton had to leave and that left the meeting without a Quorum the meeting Adjourned at 1:16 pm

David Ware  
Secretary

April Goff  
Administrative Specialist III

Approved March 15, 2024