

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

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 November 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Commissioners attending in person: Jesse Hargrove, Caleb Williams, Pat Johnson, and Lynda Johnson. Present via Teams was Arnetta Bradford. Walter Washington resigned since the last meeting and his replacement has not been named. Reverend Lattimore's replacement has not been appointed yet.

Staff present in person: DAH Director Marty Ryalls, ASA Director David Ware, ASA African American History Program Coordinator, Tatyana Oyinloye, and ASA Administrative Specialist III April Goff. Clay Stone, ADPHT legal counsel joined the meeting in progress.

Guests in attendance: 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 Pat Johnson and second by Caleb Williams 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 "Journalist for a day, The Daisy Bates Way." After some discussion and questions from the commission with motion from Pat Johnson and second by Williams the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3500.00.

Second was "The Restoration of the Forrest City Colored Cemetery, Research, and Educational Materials project." After some discussion and questions with motion from Williams and second from Lynda Johnson the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3500.00.

Third was "Preservation of Fraternal Cemetery's African American History and Heritage in Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park." After some discussion and questions from the commission and with motion from Lynda Johnson and second by Pat Johnson the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3487.98.

Fourth was "Historical Marker Commemorating the White County Training School and Mr. Harold Wilson." After some discussion and questions from the commission and with motion from Pat Johnson and second by Lynda Johnson the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3370.00.

Fifth was "Unrecognized: Arkansas' forgotten Track Legends." After some discussion and questions from the commission and with motion from Lynda Johnson and second by Williams the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3500.00.

Sixth was "Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Eliza Ross Miller "Purchase" and African American Delta Greats from the 19th and 20th centuries." After some discussion and questions from the commission and with motion from Lynda Johnson and second by Williams the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3349.24.

Seventh was "African American Funeral Homes: The Final Emancipation- Kennedy Funeral Home-Resting in Peace? Phase 1." After some discussion and questions from the commission and with motion from Pat Johnson and second by Williams the commission approved the grant in the amount of \$3500.00.

The commission then moved to discussion of the process of updating the rules for the Curtis Sykes Grant program. Clay Stone Legal Counsel explained the process and timeline expected for processing changes to the rules. He explained he would need to research the current rules and links to Arkansas code. The commission listed the possible rules they wished to address, and Stone said he will investigate and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.

The commission then moved on to discussion of other issues. Lynda Johnson brought up the question of stipends and it was explained to her that the commissioners already received a stipend of \$60 dollars for each meeting. She did not think she had been receiving these and Goff said she will investigate payments and get back with them. She also brought up some publicity issues. She suggested that a press release for the grants awarded be sent out after each meeting to publicize the grant program. She also suggested that there be a press notice sent out to the

This led to discussion of the location of the next meeting, it was decided to meet at DAH headquarters in little Rock for the various business items to be dealt with in a more convenient manner.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

David Ware
Secretary

April Goff
Administrative Specialist III

Approved February 13, 2025