

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2023

The Black History Commission of Arkansas met in person and via ZOOM in the Arkansas State Archives offices in Little Rock, AR on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. Commissioners attending in person: Jesse Hargrove, Lynda Johnson, and Pat Finley-Johnson and via ZOOM: Arnetta Bradford and Walter Washington. Elise Hampton was absent. Reverend Lattimore's replacement has not been appointed yet.

Staff present via ZOOM or in person: ASA Director David Ware, ASA African American History Program Coordinator, Tatyana Oyinloye, ASA Administrative Specialist III April Goff, ADPHT-DAH Museum Services Director Blake Wintory and ADPHT-PIO Lindsey Tugman.

Guests in attendance: Jennifer Siccardi, liaison from the Office of the Governor, grant applicants and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Hargrove. The commissioners, staff and guests then introduced themselves.

The chair allowed the guest Kristin Hardy who was introduced by the Governor's Liaison to present a project that she had done at Arkansas Tech University.

The commission reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and after motion by Patricia Johnson and second by Bradford they were approved with one typographical correction.

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

The commission then moved on to Sykes Grant applications. First was "Girl Power 2" presented by Phyllis Hodges. After some discussion with motion by Bradford and second by Lynda Johnson the application for \$3500.00 was approved.

Second was "Historical Contributions of African American Psychologists from Arkansas-Book Project" presented by Patricia Griffen. After some discussion the commission recommended that the applicant resubmit when they were further along in their project and into portions of it that fit the guidelines for what the Sykes grants could be given for.

Third was the "Unity Fest" presented by Tiffany Lampkin. After some discussion and recommendations from the commission to have the inclusion of African American history as part of the festival be more out front with motion by Washington and second by Bradford the commission approved \$3500.00.

Fourth was the "Succeeding Against the Odds: Using John H. Johnson Book for Teaching and Learning". Angela Courtney answered questions from the commission via phone due to computer issues. After motion by Lynda Johnson and second by Washington the commission

approved a grant in the amount of \$3000.00 pending the applicant providing verification that the lesson plan, they are working on fits current Arkansas Learns Act regulations.

Next the commission moved on to the African American History Coordinator's report. Oyinloye reported that plans were starting for the February Symposium, and she needed a topic to be chosen by the commission. 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. Oyinloye.

Commissioners then moved on to new business. Ware presented a request from the Arkansas Genealogical Society for the BHCA to co-sponsor their Fall Symposium. After motion by Pat Johnson and second by Bradford the commission approved a sponsorship in the amount of \$1500.00.

The next meeting date was confirmed: November 16th at Little Rock in the ASA meeting room. The tentative dates for 2024 meetings were set as February 15, May 16, August 15, and November 21 all at noon and locations to be determined.

The meeting was then adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

David Ware
Secretary

April Goff
Administrative Specialist III