

KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

November 4, 2022 1:00 p.m.
Meeting virtually via Zoom

The mission of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission is to preserve, protect and illuminate all meaningful vestiges of Kentucky's African American heritage.

Members Present: Betty Dobson Chair; Betty Baker-Clayton; Samuel Coleman, Jr.; Richard Fowler; Charisse Gillett; Kilen Gray; Lacy Rice; Alicestyne Turley; Diane Woods; Mary Woolridge; BR Masters – TAH; Craig Potts - KHC

Members Absent: Lamont Collins; Tyler Fleming; Natalie Gibson; Walter Malone; Karen Morehead

Guests: Lena Ramsey

Staff Present: Tressa Brown

WELCOME – Betty Dobson -Chair

- 1:00 pm the meeting was called to order

Quorum was reached

- **Minutes –**
 - Motion made by A. Turley to approve Minutes of July 8, 2022, seconded by K. Gray.
 - *Motion accepted. Minutes approved.*
 - Motion made by L. Rice to approve Minutes of Special Meeting October 12, 2022. Seconded by Diane Wood.
 - *Motion accepted. Minutes approved.*
- L. Rice made a motion to make changes to the agenda
 - Maintain as printed:
 - Silent prayer
 - Minutes
 - Announcements
 - Adjournment
 - Remove the Education Committee Report
 - Add to New Business
 - By-Laws
 - Webpage
 - M. Woolridge seconded the motion
 - C. Potts – the agenda posted to the public is the one the meeting must follow. Items can be added as new business.
 - B. Dobson – will address matters as we get into new business using the posted agenda.

REPORTS

- **Staff Report – T. Brown**
 - Am behind in work after returning from having Covid
 - Very busy with presentations for Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month.

- Am working on the documents to move the grants forward for review and approval from fiscal, legal and Ky Heritage Council.
- **C. Potts – Ky Heritage Council report**
 - Office positions are available
 - Cabinet legal made clear on open meetings there are legal requirements – a 30-minute training will be offered to all commissions
- **B.R. Masters – Cabinet Report**
 - Finalizing proposals of how Cabinet funds will be spent
 - Gearing up for new session
 - Would like to sin in on open meeting training
 - A. Turley proposed some funds be prioritized for Historic Cherokee Park
- **Education Committee – C. Gillett – No report**
- **250th Report**
 - T. Brown attended the meeting on behalf of the African American and Native American heritage commissions
 - Listening Sessions scheduled for across the state – information was sent out and will be sent again.
 - B.R. Masters – 250th America’s Celebration
 - Administered by Scott Alvey of Ky Historical Society
 - Passed in 2021 Legislative Session for 2026 event (Harrodsburg’s in 2024 and KY Parks’ 100 anniversary)
 - The listening sessions are focused on being inclusive in telling the KY story
 - C. Potts –
 - Tyler McDaniel was hired to head the commissions work through the KY Historical Society
 - National Parks provides some information to assist in identification, recognition and discussion of the total 250 years of history
 - State resources are available at Ky Hist. Society and National information is available at the National Park Service websites.
 - Each state can highlight their own portion of that history so it is more than a discussion of the establishment of American government/as a country
 - This is an unfunded commission
- **Budget Committee Report – A. Turley**
 - Recap of special meeting
 - Approval of 6 grants totaling \$35,906 for 2022-23
 - Still leaves some funds for travel reimbursement for commissioners travel for project review.
 - Anticipating interest in grant program for next year
 - Still need to assign commissioners to 2 grant projects for oversight and reporting
- **Grants – A. Turley**
 - Grants awarded 2021-2022
 - \$15,500.0 to three projects being monitored by commissioners:
 - Jackson Purchase Cemetery Project - B. Dobson
 - Evaluated 20 African American cemeteries
 - 10 cemeteries were cleaned
 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
 - Kansas Cemetery
 - Smithland
 - Cemeteries have notable people buried there
 - Medal of Honor recipient
 - Mary Ford Holland

- USTC soldiers
 - Many abandoned cemeteries still in need
 - The project as a whole was well received and garnered some awareness for the Commission
 - Greenwood Cemetery Project - M. Woodridge
 - Not all work completed as one primary person is running for office
 - Need final report and photos
 - Many cemeteries have gone into receivership 95% are African American
 - Eastern and Greenwood Cemeteries - Obligation of the city for maintenance
 - State has some funding for care and maintenance so need to figure out how to tap those resources
 - WKU Jonesville Oral History Project - L. Rice
 - Remembrance Project
 - WKU to recognize property of Jonesville in Bowling Green
 - Current WKU President felt need to recognize resident/descendants of residents of the community
 - Attended the opening of the exhibit
 - Not all funds were expended but the project is yet to be finished
 - exhibit will travel to Frankfort and will be installed as a permanent exhibit at the African American Museum in Bowling Green. The Museum was damaged by storm and fire so the installment has been delayed.
 - By early next year all will be finished including KAAHC logo on all material
 - Will share pictures with Commission - more information is available at info@wku.edu/jonesville
 - Put links on website for all grant awards
- Grants awarded 2022-23 year
 - 6 grants awarded
 - Still need to assign Commissioners to two grant projects for reporting and completion
 - Hopewell Museum – Paris
 - Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society
 - Kilen Gray offered to oversee along with 2nd Street Church project in Danville
 - Commissioners expressed disappointment in delays in getting funding to grantees/with process of grant administration in a timely manner
 - Current process is taxing for personnel
 - Definitely a problem to overcome
 - Option is for Commission to establish 501c3 to avoid state process
 - There is discussion regarding the TAH 501c3 already established
 - Legal issues still under discussion

OLD BUSINESS

- **Strategic Plan – L. Rice**
 - Several discussions
 - Motion made to move strategic plan to the Executive Committee for further discussion made by L. Rice. Seconded by R. Fowler
 - *Motion approved.*

NEW BUSINESS

- By-Laws – L. Rice

- Standing By-Laws are out of compliance with state statute
 - Committees should be at the discretion of the Commission Chair
 - Articles should be included
 - Vote only on officers
- Motion made by L. Rice that current By-Laws be sent to the Executive Committee for editing and be resubmitted to the full Commission. Seconded by R. Fowler.
- *Motion Approved*
- Web Page – L. Rice
 - Not enough information on the webpage to validate the Commission
 - Need to expand the webpage
 - Links to projects being funded
 - Separate pages for all links listed
 - Separate page for African American Cemeteries
 - Separate page for HBCUs
 - Ky State University
 - Simmons
 - University of Louisville
 - Sherpherdsville
 - L. Rice made a motion to create a committee for websites and media. Seconded by A. Turley
 - Discussion
 - How would expenses be covered
 - Management would be on Ky Heritage Council/D. Comer/T. Brown
 - Need to come up with a way to get info out
 - Can post on personal sites and share with KY Heritage Council
 - How can KAAHC assist and take some burden off staff
 - What other options to publish work?
 - *Motion Approved*
- **Guest Lena Ramsey – Georgetown Leadership of Scott County**
 - Annual project – This year is Maple Grove Cemetery
 - WWI and Buffalo Soldiers
 - Very run down/overlooked
 - Owners needing assistance to maintain
 - Looking for guidance
 - Do have local support
 - Headstone cleaning
 - ID of grave sites
 - Kiosk being created to offer additional information
 - Looking for donations
 - Possibility of making it an historical landmark
 - Could apply for KAAHC Grant for next year
 - A. Turley willing to offer information to assist
 - May look at still existing civic organizations
 - Knights of Pythias
 - National Trust for African American cemeteries
 - M. Woolridge suggested contacting area corporations – Toyota
 - S. Coleman suggested National Association of Black Veterans

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

- May be a need for more than three meetings a year since the commission is doing more work
- Meeting can be virtual and so not impact the budget

- A. Turley made a motion for quarterly meeting discussion to move to the Executive Committee. Seconded by L. Rice. NO QUORUM
- An Executive Committee Meeting set for January 27, 2023 at 1:00pm via Zoom
- Full Commission meeting set for March 10, 2023 at 1:00

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned 3:03 pm.