

March 4, 2020
GENERAL MEETING
BERKSHIRE COUNTY BRANCH, NAACP

the green, North Adams

Attendees

See Addendum

AGENDA:

- 1. Meeting Called to Order 6:12 pm**
 - a. Dennis Powell called the meeting to order.
- 2. Opening Silence**
- 3. Review of Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Treasurer's Report distributed to members and discussed.
 - b. Merle Ferber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - c. Lenny Kates seconded.
 - d. Approved.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Merle Ferber made a motion to approve last meeting minutes.
 - b. Lenny Kates seconded.
 - c. Approved.

Presentation:

Susan Cross, Prevention and Recovery Associate at Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- 1. Finance & Freedom Fund - Will Singleton**
 - a. Saturday November 7th
 - b. Entertainment: Deeper Than Skin, Reggie Harris & Greg Greenway
 - c. Honoring Rachel Fletcher
- 2. Face Book - Leah Reed**
 - a. Chair not present.
- 3. Education Committee – Will Singleton & Hugh Guilderson**
 - a. Report submitted.
 - b. Hugh Guilderson provided updates on
 - i. Feb. 26 presentation to the Pittsfield School Committee by Will Singleton
 - ii. Update on the Pittsfield schools Social and Emotional Learning curriculum
 - iii. Description of the Berkshire Compact Aspirations Report

- iv. Student Resource Officers in Pittsfield schools
- 4. **PR Media**- Megan Whilden
 - a. Not present.
- 5. **Membership & Life Membership** - Chad Robertson
 - a. Moving to a national membership platform.
 - b. Chad Robertson working with National to get a reconciled membership list.
- 6. **Race Relations** - Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest
 - a. Discussion on having training for the Branch.
 - b. Took 80 students with Williams College to watch Just Mercy.
 - c. Pittsfield Public Schools will continue and expand teacher pilot program with HBCUs.
- 7. **Environmental Justice** - Al Blake, Raei Bridges
 - a. Raei Bridges bringing new programs to address issues facing marginalized communities in the County.
 - b. Al Blake announced upcoming events in the community.
 - i. 2050 Roadmap: Building Solutions to Address Climate Change in the Commonwealth March 12th 6 pm Berkshire Community College.
 - ii. Environment Mass and MassPIRG 100% Renewables Town Hall event. March 30 6 pm Berkshire Community College.
- 8. **Social Justice Action Committee** - Drew Herzig & Rebecca Thomson
 - a. Report submitted.
 - b. Update to Open to All discussion submitted.
 - c. Tuesday March 17th ACLU: What Difference a DA Makes.
- 9. **Economic Development/Justice** - John Lewis
 - a. Chair not present.
 - b. Chad Robertson gave an update given on the March 12th Black Economic Council Idea Jam
- 10. **Redress Committee** - Christina Daignault & Doug Mishkin
 - a. High level update of committee work was given without giving details that would reveal identity of parties involved.
 - b. Christina Daignault spoke to the reasoning behind renaming Indigenous Peoples Day and removing racist imagery from State seals and logos.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 11. **Request to include "Climate" to the Environmental Justice Committee**
 - a. Raei Bridges would like to add "Climate" to the committee name to show the community that we are serious about taking action in the area of climate justice and it's intersectionality with Environmental justice.
- 12. **Strategic Planning/NAACP Branch**
 - a. Dennis Powell gave an overview of process improvement project with Bill Svrluga of WJS Consulting.
- 13. **NEAC Quarterly Meeting March 7th, 2020**

- a. Dennis Powell, Raei Bridges and Chad Robertson attending.
- b. Dennis Powell to be on a panel addressing Student Opportunity Act.

14. NAACP National Convention

- a. 111st Convention Commences July 25th 2020.

15. Presentation First Congregational Church – Williamstown

- a. Dennis Powell gave a presentation at First Congregational.
- b. 6 new Branch members as a result.

16. Brochure

- a. 111st Convention Commences July 25th 2020.

17. Branch invited to participate in the Adams parade

18. Night at the Ballpark

- a. Chad Robertson to email Branch for interest in baseball game.

19. Gather-In 2020

- a. Meeting in April to start planning.

ADJOURNMENT

20. Adjournment 8:02 pm