May 6, 2020
GENERAL MEETING
BERKSHIRE COUNTY BRANCH, NAACP

Zoom

Attendees
See Addendum

AGENDA:

1. Meeting Called to Order 6:03 pm
   a. President Dennis Powell entered the meeting at 6:00 pm as he was at a community event.
   b. Prior to the meeting President Dennis Powell asked Chad Robertson to conduct the meeting until his arrival.

2. Opening Silence
   a. Vice President Leah Reed opened the meeting.

3. Review of Treasurer’s Report
   a. Erica Mielke gave an overview of the current budget.
   b. Overview of the financial assistance stipend process.
   c. Treasurer’s Report will be updated for the May Executive Committee meeting and accepted at the June Branch meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a. April meetings minutes distributed to members and disused.
   b. Leah Reed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes.
   c. Al Blake seconded.
   d. Approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

1. Finance & Freedom Fund - Will Singleton
   a. The Freedom Fund won’t happen in person.
   b. Looking for ways in which we can fundraise online.

2. Face Book - Leah Reed
   a. Update on the status of the Facebook page.

   a. Black Economic Council of the Berkshires implemented a strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic:
      i. Webinar Video Recording
      ii. BEC Covid-19 Survey Summary
      iii. BEC Covid-19 Survey Report
      iv. BEC Resource Recommendations
b. BEC Idea Jam moving to an online platform.
c. BEC facilitated education on public money available for businesses.

4. **Education Committee** – Will Singleton & Hugh Guilderson
   a. Committee meeting May 11th 6pm
   b. Committee looking for scholarship funding.
   c. Education funding cuts coming – including staff.
   d. Committee addressing the need for counseling in schools.

5. **PR Media** - Megan Whilden
   a. Chair has resigned.
   b. A replacement chair will be found.

6. **Membership & Life Membership** - Chad Robertson
   a. Have access to Salesforce data from National
   b. Developing a streamlined membership/CRM process.
   c. Branch election schedule will be distributed.

7. **Health** – Brooke Bridges
   a. Brooke Bridges gave an overview of social/emotional programming she is working on in the community via the ‘we are all in the together’ virtual meet up.
   b. Discussion of having an access to ancestral food program with ties to land and farming.

8. **Race Relations** - Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest
   a. Working with Redress Committee on workplace discrimination involving with young men of color.
   b. COVID-19 have highlighted racial inequalities and tension.
   c. Meeting with District Attorney’s Office on engaging youth before police contact.
   d. Women of Color Giving Circle and NAACP will be hosting an online graduate event for students of African descent. June 6th.
   e. Students need an app for education. $45 for 11 students.
     i. Virginia Oleary made a motion to approve spending from the Gather In fund to cover cost of the app.
     ii. Erica Mielke seconded
     iii. Approved.

9. **Community Coordination** – Dubois Thomas
   a. Dubois Thomas gave an overview of his credentials and work in the community.

10. **Environment & Climate Justice** - Al Blake, Raei Bridges
    a. City of Pittsfield Energy Efficiency Program - Rosemary Wessel, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
    b. Raei Bridges gave updates on day of action for May 7th 2020
    c. Working on a land sovereignty project with other committee chairs.

11. **Social Justice Action Committee** - Drew Herzig & Rebecca Thomson
    a. Chairs not present.

    a. Chairs had to leave meeting to go to work.
13. **Redress Committee** - Christina Daignault & Doug Mishkin
   a. High level update of committee work was given without giving details that would reveal the names of community members.
   b. There is a moratorium on housing evictions and utilities cut off.

**PRESENTATION:**
City of Pittsfield Energy Efficiency Program  
Rosemary Wessel, Berkshire Environmental Action Team

**NEW BUSINESS:**

14. **Gather-In 2020**
   a. Waiting to see how response to pandemic unfolds before beginning planning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

15. **Adjournment  8:36 pm**
   a. Shirley Edgerton made a motion to adjourn.
   b. Helen seconded.
   c. Adjourned