

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: 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.
- 3. Economic Development/Justice** - John Lewis
 - 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 O’leary 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.
- 12. **Youth Sessions/R.O.P.E.** – Jerome Edgerton & Ari Zorn
 - 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