

Minutes
January 12th 2022

Commissioners Present:

Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Karima (Karen) Archie
Valerie Phelps-Robinson
Stacey Taylor

Commissioners Absent:

Richard Wagner
Lisa Blount

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Cobb-Holmes. The minutes were reviewed. Under Good & Welfare, it should read Berks Democratic Women is sponsoring "the art of persuasion" at Deluxe Restaurant from 6-8. The minutes were moved for approval with corrections. Commissioner Yoder moved/Commissioner Archie second. Minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

The rate of applications for rental assistance has increased. The city may allocate additional funds for rental utility assistance as well as to hire 1 more part time person.

Beginning 1/18, City hall will shut down to the public until 1/31. This is due to the high rates of COVID infection.

There was 1 employment intake and 1 fair housing intake completed.

The E.D.'s report was moved for approval. Commissioner Archie moved/Commissioner Taylor Second. The E.D.'s report was approved.

Old Business:

Commissioners agree that we should conduct board member training. Commissioner Taylor suggested United Way because they sponsor Leadership Berks. Commissioner Yoder will speak with Mr. Yoder. Commissioners Yoder, Archie and Cobb-Holmes agreed to review the city anti-discrimination ordinance with the E.D. The goal is to strengthen & update the language in the ordinance.

New Business

EEOC is replacing our current tracking system (IMS) with a system called ARC. We are attending virtual trainings on how to enter case data and track information.

Good & Welfare

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that BCIU still needs employees.

Commissioner Taylor reports that the scheduled breakfast fundraiser for Juneteenth had to be cancelled.

Training

PHRC has an event scheduled to celebrate MLK Jr. I will forward the flyer to Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.