

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
January 11, 2021

Members Present

Margo Dirkson	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Robert Owens	Krystal Akehinmi	Ted Pelton
Rosemarie Black	Daniel Allen	Holly Mills

Members Absent

Troy Smith	Daniel Badoe	Nathaniel Colemon
Joshua Egwuatu	Katrina Ibezim	Gregory Holt
Qiera Bentley	Nicole Williams	Thomas Heard
Simone McKelvey	Jimmy Jones	Harry Ingle

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, January 11, 2021 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Margo Dirkson at 3:07pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. Holly Mills made the motion. Krystal Akehinmi seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting with corrections was made by Holly Mills. It was seconded by Rose Black. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service:

The Omicron Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Silent March in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th, 2021. The March begins at 11 am in front of the TTU Presidential residence and continues to Derryberry Hall. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

Book Deliveries to the local Head Start Programs was discussed. The link is: ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wik/Head_Start_\(program\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wik/Head_Start_(program))).

TTU Food Pantry Restock (Main & Auxiliary locations) was discussed. Two teams would go out shopping. Charria Campbell would lead a group in the morning on Friday January 22nd, and Michelle Huddleston would lead a group of shoppers in the afternoon. It was noted that volunteer groups would be limited to groups of nine people and COVID 19 guidelines would be followed.

The NAACP "Virtual" Martin Luther King Day Celebration" was mentioned. More information to come.

Center Stage has approved Rasheed Cromwell to speak on January 25th at 6pm. Liz Kassera will provide more information as the contract and other arrangements are finalized.

Black History Month Activities:

CSB is encouraged to submit key facts of notable Black People who made an impact or contribution for Blacks. Twenty-eight individuals or key moments in history are needed for the February calendar.

Tentative Movie Nights were discussed. The movies CSB members spoke of were "Moonlight", "Hidden Figures", "The Night Tulsa Burned" and "Harriet". A committee was formed to look into the performance rights and other issues regarding showing the movies to a large group outside the classroom setting. Following COVID-19 guidelines was also discussed. The committee members are: Krystal, Akehinmi, Ted Pelton and Holly Mills. A suggestion was made to reserve the Back Door Playhouse for the viewing. Harry Ingle had previously stated that Engineering funds may be available to assist with the copyright viewing costs.

AmeriCorps will be here on January 21, 2021. They are encouraging volunteers to register to help continue with the clean-up efforts caused by the March 2020 EF4 tornado here in Cookeville, TN. They will return in March 2021 to resume the work.

Center Stage and Multicultural Affairs will sponsor Ms. Natilie Williams, PhD, On February 11th, 2021 at 11am. The title of her presentation is "Beyonce Was Not Built in A Day". More information is coming.

Black Business Focus

Dr. Robert Owens shared a link to Impact Cookeville in the chat. These are locally owned minority businesses. It was suggested that a day could be set up where each business could be patronized by TTU. The link is: www.impactcookeville.com/shop-local. It was mentioned that Simone McKelvey, who is a member of CSB, owns a business and she may be contacted in this outreach.

Spring Scholarship Banquet

The MPR has been reserved on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. More information to follow.

Other Such Matters

None discussed.

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Krystal Akehinmi. It was seconded by Ted Pelton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:58pm. The next meeting will be on February 1, 2021, at 3pm. The meeting will be held through Teams.