



ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

February 22, 2023

7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Cisco WebEx

MEETING MINUTES

Members: Andrew Lin, Gabrielle Zwi, Sinan Wolf-Gazo, Molly Cullen, Rachel Blomquist, Rebecca Murphy, Amy Frieder, Kaoru Sakabe

Student Ambassadors: Celeste Krubally, Becca Fulton

Staff Liaison: Tyree Davis IV

Guests: Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager

I. Convene and Welcome

- a. The meeting was convened and started meeting at 7:34
- b. Welcome Guest(s)
 - i. The commission welcomed Barack Matite, the new Rockville Deputy City Manager who introduced himself and described his role at the city.
- c. Approve Minutes/Agenda
 - i. Upon motion made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Frieder, moved to accept the agenda and minutes were approved.

II. Staff Report

- a. Updates
 - i. Liaison Davis shared that the ADA Coordinator will be starting her position at the City of Rockville on March 6th.
 - ii. There is also now a vacancy on the commission and the commission will wait approval from Mayor and Council to fill vacancy.
 - iii. Rockville will be hosting a Black History Month Facebook live with Liaison Davis, Deputy City Manager Barack Matite, and Director of Communications Kathy Kirk-Dantzler on February 28th at 6PM.

III. Co-Chair Report

- a. 2023 Pride
 - i. Co-chair Lin provided an update on Pride 2023, which is planned for June 24. It was noted that Montgomery County Pride in Silver Springs is scheduled for June 25. The Commissioners also noted that Washington, DC had been selected to host the World Pride event in 2025.
- b. Co-chair Lin noted that Father Tim Carr, one of the volunteers on the Pride Committee, had invited the commission to his installation on March 19th at Christ Episcopal Church in Rockville at 4PM.
- c. Commissioner Survey

- i. Co-Chair Lin noted that a survey for each commissioner to complete will be circulated. Commissioners should complete the survey in the next two weeks to determine where interests lie.
- d. Co-Chair Lin noted that the organization Coming to the Table invited HRC to an event regarding Harriet Tubman sculpture on March 9th at the Rockville Memorial Library from 6PM-8PM.
- e. Co-Chair Lin noted that the joint task force among the Asian Pacific American Task Force/Board of Supervisor Elections/HRC will be having a meeting discussing voter outreach February 23rd at 7PM. Please let Co-chair Lin know if this is of interest to you and he will loop you in going forward. Commissioner Blomquist noted she was interested in the project.

IV. Other Committee Reports

a. Current Affairs

- i. Commissioner Cullen provided updates on the Charter Review Commission recommendations. On January 30, 2023, the HRC submitted its statement in favor of the proposal to expand the Council from four to six members. On February 6, 2023, the HRC submitted an additional statement further noting its position on the use of representative districts and the use of ranked choice voting. The City Council was subsequently expanded from 4 to 6 based on the recommendations from Charter Review Commission.
- ii. The continued focus of discussion is on lowering the voting age and allowing voting by non-citizens. Commissioner Cullen proposed preparation and submission of another statement in support of the proposal to extend the vote to non-citizens considering hostile and xenophobic language that had circulated in the community. The Commissioner agreed that a letter will be prepared for submission for the M&C February 27th meeting.

b. Human Rights City

- i. Vice-chair Zwi and Liaison Davis confirmed that the letter noting the HRC's work on a proposal for Rockville to become a human rights city was submitted on February 6, 2023.

c. IDEA Training

- i. Co-chair Lin asked for volunteers to start the process of building the framework for the IDEA training for students. The individual who previously prepared and conducted the program is unable to do so going forward.

V. Other Business and Announcements

a. HRC Goals and Objectives

- i. The questionnaire will serve as a guide for the goals and objectives of the HRC.

b. The Human Services Nonprofit Grant Panel

- i. Commissioner Murphy provided a recap of the Human Services Nonprofit Grant Panel process. Twenty-three non-profit organizations applied and \$750k in grants was allocated. The Panel was able to fund nearly all the programs, including a pilot program for introducing an art therapy

program to some schools based on the potential trauma from the pandemic.

c. Arts Nominating

- i. Commissioner Frieder shared the final meeting for the City Hall Generator Screen is for the on Tuesday, February 28th and the selection committee got the top candidates down to top three artist. The top three will present to the committee, and a selection will be made.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Upon motion made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Frieder, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08.



Harriet Tubman
Traveling Exhibit Flyer

