



**ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Black-Eyed Susan Conference Room

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

7:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Members – Courtney Proctor, Chair; Debbie Cohen; Andrew Lin; Irfan Murtuza, Alonzo Smith; and Gabrielle Zwi  
Guests – Cathy Roberts and Venetia Bailey (Coming to the Table) and Joe DeMaria  
Staff Liaison – Janet Kelly

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Proctor called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

**II. Welcoming of Guests**

**III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

The Commission adopted the meeting agenda and the February and March meeting minutes.

**IV. Chair's Report**

**A. Boards and Commissions Task Force Interview**

Chair Proctor summarized her April 4<sup>th</sup> interview with John Becker from the Boards and Commissions Task Force. In particular, she reviewed the various concerns that she expressed to him on behalf of the Commission. Commissioners shared her concerns, which echoed those of other boards and commissions. Chair Proctor plans to keep commissioners informed about next steps. The Boards and Commissions Task Force plans to submit a final report with recommendations to the Mayor and Council later this year.

**B. Human Rights Commission Priorities**

Commissioners reviewed the proposed list of priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Some new items discussed included the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, Disability Awareness Month, and a community forum to discuss security issues in the Jewish community. Commissioners discussed the possibility of collaborating with other organizations on these proposed initiatives.

**C. Racial Equity & Social Justice Initiative**

Chair Proctor summarized Montgomery County’s Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Initiative, which started in March. She discussed the possibility of the Commission collaborating with Coming to the Table (CTTT) to host a RESJ community discussion. Venetia Bailey and Cathy Roberts, CTTT facilitators, informed everyone that CTTT planned to host its own discussion on May 9<sup>th</sup>, but was open to host another one with the Commission at a later time. The deadline to complete all discussions and submit feedback is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**V. Staff’s Report**

**A. Diversity Leadership Workshop Debrief**

Liaison Kelly stated that the feedback for the workshop was positive. However, she stated that there is a need to increase attendance. Commissioners discussed options to better promote the workshop and to avoid potential scheduling conflicts with testing days and religious observances. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of expanding the one-day workshop into a year-round program, which could involve creating diversity and inclusion coalitions among the student groups to create their own initiatives, providing continued training to students throughout the school year, and appointing HRC student ambassadors to assist with the overall effort.

**B. NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner**

Ms. Kelly reminded Commissioners that the dinner would be held May 19<sup>th</sup> and distributed tickets to those who expressed interest in attending.

**C. Voter Registration**

Ms. Kelly spoke to the Commission about the City of Rockville’s Voter Registration Campaign, which will begin in September, and the desire for the Commission to assist with the effort. As part of the campaign, the City plans to recruit students to serve as liaisons to help promote the importance of voting and to help register other students. Joe DeMaria suggested sending voter registration cards to new homeowners to increase participation in the campaign.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. Rockville Pride**

Chair Proctor shared the updated list of Pride sponsors and encouraged committee members to continue to contact local businesses to secure additional sponsorships.

Liaison Kelly informed everyone that the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor conference room in the Rockville Memorial Library would be available for the Pride table talks and that she is in the process of confirming speakers.

**B. MLK Celebration**

Commissioners reviewed the list of potential keynote speakers, which will be reduced to the top five before a vote is called. Important criteria for selection include cost, availability, and ability to capture the theme. Chair Proctor and

Liaison Kelly reiterated the need to choose a new event caterer and the possibility of seeking a budget modification to cover additional caterer and other event costs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chair Proctor will send committee members a list of criteria for selecting potential caterers.

**VII. Old Business**

There were no old business items.

**VIII. New Business**

There were no new business items.

**IX. Announcements**

- A. County Executive Marc Elrich seeks applicants to fill 10 vacancies on the newly created Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission. The application deadline is May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- B. An LGBTQIA PTA forum will be held May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Wootton High School.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.