



## ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

April 26, 2023

7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Cisco WebEx

### MEETING MINUTES

Members: Amina Shafi-Rogers, Andrew Lin, Rachel Blomquist, Amy Frieder, Molly Cullen, Sinan Wolf-Gazo

Student Ambassadors: Celestia Krubally, Becca Fulton

Guest: Councilmember Dr. David Myles, Jane Lyons-Raeder (City of Rockville)

Staff Liaison: Tyree Davis IV

#### I. Convene and Welcome

- a. The meeting was convened and started at 7:37 pm
- b. Co-chairs welcomed guest to the meeting. Jane Lyons-Raeder, Principal Planner for the City of Rockville, introduced herself to the Commission.
- c. Upon motion made by Co-chair Shafi-Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Wolf-Gazo, the agenda and minutes were approved.

#### II. Staff Report

##### a. Town Center Master Plan

- i. Jane Lyons-Raeder, Principal Planner for City of Rockville gave a presentation and answered questions about the Town Center Master Plan. She solicited feedback from the Commissioners. In response to questions, Ms. Raeder discussed:

1. Housing issues
2. Accessibility issues
3. The role of retail
4. Parking issues

- ii. Jane described additional planned opportunities for feedback by the HRC. The Commissioners thanked her for her presentation.

##### b. Updates

- c. Liaison Davis shared that the Compensation Commission is hosting a public forum on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at City Hall in the Mayor and Council Chambers for people to provide input on compensation of Mayor and Council. The Link is below

1. The survey available [here](#).

- iii. Liaison Davis asked if the HRC would like to review ADA as a mission of their commission. The commission shared they would discuss as a part of the larger Commission review in progress.
- iv. Rockville is partnering with the County to celebrate Juneteenth this year. The event will take place from 10AM-10PM at Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- v. Lincoln Park Historical Association is also having an event from 10AM-6PM on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln High School to celebrate the Lincoln Park Community.

### III. Co-Chair Report

- a. 2023 Pride
  - i. Co-chair Lin provided an update on planning for Pride
  - ii. The Planning group will need help posting information around the city and in connection with the election this year. Contact Liaison Davis or the Planning group to get fliers or posters. Co-chair Lin has created a spreadsheet of organizations that could host information.
  - iii. The HRC will need to be all hands-on deck for sponsorships. Costs are coming in higher than last year and there seems to be a lot of community interest.
- b. Commissioner Survey
  - i. Co-Chair Lin reminded the Commissioners to complete the survey that was previously distributed.
- c. APA/BSE/HRC Joint Voter Update
  - i. Co-Chair Lin provided an update on the joint voting project with the BSE and APATF. Multilingual informational flyers will be posted around the city with the election being this year. These materials can be distributed in conjunction with Pride promotional materials.

### IV. Other Committee Reports

- a. Current Affairs Committee
  - i. Restoration Center: Commissioners Blomquist, Cullen, and Co-chair Lin updated the group on the Restoration Center community forum that was held on April 20, 2022. They noted that the meeting was quite contentious and heated. Commissioner Cullen noted that read part of the statement offered at the forum will be modified for future submission that the group will submit to Mayor and Council.
  - ii. The group noted the meeting was contentious.
- b. Montgomery County Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation (MCCRR)
  - i. No Update
- c. Student Ambassador Project
  - i. Student Ambassadors Krubally and Fulton gave an update on the project that was assigned to the group and stated it is going well.

### V. Other Business and Announcements

- a. Commissioner Frieder noted that April is Dalit History Month. She provided a brief overview of the Dalit and issues surrounding the caste system in India.

- b. Seattle become in the 1<sup>st</sup> city in US to ban caste discrimination and California is on track to be the first state to ban caste discrimination,

VI. Adjournment

- a. Upon motion made by Co-chair Shafi-Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Wolf-Gazo, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.