



**ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Black-Eyed Susan Conference Room

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

7:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Courtney Proctor, Chair; Andrew Lin, Vice Chair; Alonzo Smith; Juan Fogelbach; and Gabrielle Zwi

**Guests Present:** Stephanie Klein and Oyebisi Olatoye

**Staff Present:** Liaison Janet Kelly

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**II. Welcoming of Guests**

Members welcomed guests and made introductions.

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

The commission adopted the meeting agenda and the April and May meeting minutes.

**IV. Chair's Report**

**A. Administrative Updates**

Chair Proctor informed everyone that there will be two new commissioners (Marissa Valeri and Oyebisi Olatoye) appointed and that she will be reappointed next month.

**B. YCC Social Change Conference**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chair Proctor and Liaison Kelly attended the Youth Creating Change (YCC) Social Change Conference at Richard Montgomery High School. YCC is a student group whose goal is to support high-school and middle-school students addressing social issues through grant funding, mentorship, and training opportunities. The purpose of the event was to give attendees an opportunity to learn about and get engaged in local efforts to create positive social change. The conference included panel discussions on topics like discrimination, school toxicities, and socioeconomic disparities, followed by action-plan development. It also included a social change fair, art display, awards, and recognitions. Chair Proctor and Liaison Kelly networked with students as well as leaders of CUAH, YCC, and other member organizations. They also promoted Rockville Pride.

**C. CUAH Membership**

Chair Proctor informed everyone that the HRC had applied for Communities United Against Hate (CUAH) membership, which would allow the commission to be part of a group of local organizations committed to combating hate crimes, bigotry, and various forms of discrimination.

**D. ACES reachOUT Service Showcase**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Chair Proctor and Liaison Kelly attended this showcase at the Universities at Shady Grove to recruit student volunteers and network with other organizations. ACES (Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success) is a collaborative effort between Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Universities at Shady Grove to support students in obtaining their bachelor's degrees. Participating organizations included Lollipop Kids Foundation, Interfaith Works, Small Things Matter, MCPS, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, and others. Some organizations had service projects available for attendees. Several high-school students signed up to volunteer with the commission.

**V. Staff's Report**

**A. Hometown Holidays Debriefing**

Staff Liaison Kelly summarized the Hometown Holidays event and thanked the participants. She also stated that she was pleased with the attendees' level of interest in participating in the Rockville Pride festival.

**B. Rockville Pride Debriefing**

Commissioners made the following suggestions to improve the event: (1) larger sound system capacity, (2) increase event promotion, and (3) obtain official City of Rockville email account to contact potential sponsors instead of using personal email accounts.

**C. Multimedia Contest Update**

Due to low participation in the contest, Liaison Kelly solicited suggestions regarding how to proceed. No decision was made. Further feedback will be solicited.

**VI. Old Business**

There were no old business items.

**VII. New Business**

**A. HRC Student Ambassador Program**

Chair Proctor proposed a new program that would educate high-school students about human rights and the HRC and allow them opportunities to participate in the planning and execution of HRC programs and initiatives. She requested help to lead the program. Commissioners Zwi and Lin expressed interest.

**B. Volunteer Recruitment Plan**

Chair Proctor discussed the need for the HRC to develop a volunteer recruitment plan, which would include expanding the commission's current recruitment methods.

**VIII. Announcements**

**HRC July Meeting**

Chair Proctor announced that the July meeting would be a planning meeting to discuss initiatives for the new fiscal year and that, due to summer schedules, the meeting would have to be rescheduled.

**Student Awareness Workshop**

Commissioner Fogelbach offered (through his organization) training to students regarding asylum seeking. This would be especially for students that have taken the Diversity Leadership Workshop.

**Voter Registration at Independence Day Celebration**

Liaison Kelly requested volunteers for a voter registration effort at the City of Rockville's Independence Day Celebration at King Farm on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Guest Stephanie Klein agreed to volunteer.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.