



**ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Black-Eyed Susan Conference Room

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

7:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Courtney Proctor, Chair; Andrew Lin, Vice Chair; Kindra Jones; Jennifer Alvarez Franz; Chidera Nwosu; and Alex Nieves

**Guests Present:** Laura Peters and Rosetta Zizre

**Liaisons Present:** Councilmember Myles and Janet Kelly

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m.

**II. Welcoming of Guests**

Commissioners welcomed Laura Peters (Amnesty International) and Rosetta Zizre.

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

The HRC unanimously adopted the meeting agenda and the December and January minutes.

**IV. Chair's Report**

**A. Administrative Updates**

Chair Proctor introduced Councilmember Myles, the new city council liaison, and Commissioner Alvarez Franz, the HRC's most recent appointee. She also informed everyone about the one remaining vacancy on the commission and that one of the student ambassadors had resigned. She also thanked everyone for submitting their MD Open Meetings Act training certificates.

**B. Branding and Promotion**

1. Name Badges: Chair Proctor stated that Liaison Kelly had found a good deal on name badges from Promo Touch. The company's quote is half the price of the quote from Signs by Tomorrow.
2. Activism Night: She also stated that Ambassador Mishra had secured a table for the HRC to participate in Activism Night at Wootton High School on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners should expect to receive a formal invitation soon.

## V. Staff's Report

### A. Census and Outreach

Staff Liaison Kelly informed commissioners that the City of Rockville is actively seeking volunteers, specifically from boards and commissions, to assist with its efforts to promote participation in the US Census. She discussed current efforts to contact homeowner associations, schools, businesses, and organizations. The goal is to increase representation among individuals who are difficult to reach. She also solicited ideas about places to target and groups with which to work. A volunteer training has been scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall or at the Glenview Mansion.

### B. Collaboration Opportunity

Staff Liaison Kelly spoke preliminarily about a collaboration opportunity between the HRC and a local nonprofit, which has proposed providing training to the community on ways to embrace and appreciate the immigrant population. This training would cover topics like understanding the immigration process, bias attitudes, and how to communicate with immigrants. More details will be available after the proposed training has been vetted and approved.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Multimedia Scholarship Competition

1. Promotion: Event flyers and other information have been shared with volunteers, supporters, local high schools, and other organizations (*e.g.*, CUAH, NAACP, and MCPS PIO).
2. Fundraising: One thousand dollars of excess funds has been earmarked for the competition. An additional \$500 will be required.

### B. Rockville Pride

1. Promotion: Event promotion is ongoing. The webpage has been updated, and posters and flyers are being posted and distributed around the city.
2. Fundraising: Event fundraising is also ongoing.
3. Performers: The HRC is actively considering booking a local band and a high-school step team.

## VII. Old Business

A. MS Awareness Week: The proclamation request was submitted. However, no consensus has been reached regarding its issuance.

B. Caregivers Selection Committee: Commissioner Jones summarized her experience participating in the Caregivers Selection Committee where she assisted in making funding recommendations for local nonprofits. She also mentioned participating in a free police training that was offered to the community.

**VIII. New Business**

Laura Peters and Rosetta Zizre invited commissioners to participate in their organizations' upcoming International Woman's Day event, which is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and requested help securing a venue for it. Liaison Kelly agreed to assist.

**IX. Announcements**

A. Montgomery County Volunteer Awards: Nominations are due February 28<sup>th</sup>. Additional information was previously emailed to commissioners.

B. International Night: The event will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. HRC members are encouraged to attend to promote the Multimedia Scholarship Competition.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.