

**ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Cisco WebEx Conference
Wednesday, June 22, 2022
7:30 p.m.

Member Attendance: Amina Shafi Rogers (Co-Chair), Andrew Lin (Co-Chair), Vice-Chair Gabrielle Zwi, Oyebisi Olatoye, Molly Cullen, Sinan Wolf-Gazo

Staff Liaisons: Ali Hoy

Student Ambassadors: Anastasia Caruso

Guests: Brian Rogers (Cultural Arts Commissioner)

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.
- II. **Welcoming of Guests** – The Commission welcomed Anastasia Caruso and Brian Rogers.
- III. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Minutes** – Upon motion, seconded, and approved, the meeting agenda and May meeting minutes were adopted.
- IV. **Staff Report**
 - A. **Pride 2022** – Co-chair Rogers provided an overview of the Pride Virtual Event that was held on June 5th, 2022. There were three breakout rooms to discuss LGBTQ+ topics and some participants returned to the same room twice to continue discussing the topic of choice in that breakout room. Vice-Chair Zwi noted that participation was low in the breakout room they lead, but that they were able to provide resources to a few people. Co-chair Lin noted the informative discussion with the panelist from Rainbow Youth Alliance that was co-leading his breakout room.

Liaison Hoy provided extensive overview of planning updates for in person Pride event to be held on June 26 along with Commissioners Shafi Rogers, Lin, and Zwi. She provided an overview of the sponsors, the proposed agenda, the attending non-profit organizations, and the performers. Ms. Hoy reviewed the budget for the event. She then discussing sponsors and fundraising efforts. Lastly, they discussed the need for volunteers for the event. Commissioner Cullen will be receiving and coordinating volunteers throughout the day. The Commissioners in attendance reported on their availability for the event.
- V. **Co-Chair Report**
 - A. **Board of Supervisors of Elections** – Co-Chair Lin said there have been no updates since the last meeting.

VI. Other Committee Reports

- A. **Current Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Cullen drafted a statement about gun violence in May 2022, in the wake of the recent mass shootings. The draft was shared with Dr. Myles and was discussed among the Commissioners. Co-Chair Lin suggested adopting the statement draft to submit to Mayor and Council.

Upon motion, seconded, and approved, the statement about gun violence was adopted, subject to further editorial revisions as necessary.

Commissioner Cullen stated that the statement will be submitted via electronic mail to the Mayor and Council.

B. **Membership Committee**

Co-Chair Rogers reported that there have been two recent resignations from the Commission and that Commissioner Olatoye will be leaving in July, when her term expires. Co-Chair Rogers called the City Clerk's office to discuss membership and discuss if outreach by the Commission is acceptable to assist with filling vacancies. The Commissioners discussed a PowerPoint or information sheet to distribute to potential applicants and recommended posting it online. Liaison Hoy recommended using the information sheet at events, such as Pride, and said that she can add a QR code to link people with the website. Co-Chair Lin agreed to draft an information sheet for the Pride event on June 26, 2022.

VII. Old Business

- A. **Montgomery County Reconciliation Commission (MCRC)** – Commissioner Olatoye shared that her last meeting with the MCRC will be next week and that another member of the Commission will need to take her place on the MCRC, as she is not renewing her HRC appointment. The MCRC makes effort to preserve and educate the public about the historical legacy of racial violence in the County, including review of lynching sites and African American cemeteries. Two lynchings were documented in Rockville. She noted that the MCRS is interested in doing joint activities with the Rockville HRC. Co-Chair Rogers asked about the procedures for appointing another HRC member to the MCRC and Commissioner Olatoye responded that the position is filled with a formal appointment by the Montgomery County Executive. Commissioner Cullen and CAC-representative Rogers are both interested in participating in MCRC meetings.

VIII. New Business and Announcements – None

- IX. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.