

ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Cisco WebEx Conference
Wednesday, July 27, 2022
7:30 p.m.

Member Attendance: Amina Shafi Rogers (Co-Chair), Andrew Lin (Co-Chair), Vice-Chair Gabrielle Zwi, Molly Cullen, Peyton Hawkins, Yasmin Nasser

Staff Liaisons: Ali Hoy, Tyree Davis IV, Councilmember Dr. David Myles

Guests: Brian Rogers (Cultural Arts Commissioner), Rebecca Murphy

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.
- II. **Welcoming of Guests & New Members** – The Commission welcomed meeting guests Rebecca Murphy and Brian Rogers. Ms. Murphy is a software engineer who has done accessibility coordination for events and is interested in becoming a member of the Human Rights Commission.

The Commission also welcomed new HRC members Yasmin Nasser and Peyton Hawkins, who introduced themselves to the group.

- III. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Minutes** – Upon motion, seconded, and approved, the meeting agenda was adopted. The minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting.
- IV. **Staff Report**
 - A. **Introduction of New Liaison** – Liaison Hoy introduced Tyree Davis IV as the new Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) advisor to the City Manager. Mr. Davis will take over as staff Liaison to the HRC as part of his role as JEDI Advisor.
 - B. **Pride 2022 Review and Donation Process** – Liaison Hoy provided an overview of the Pride event that took place on June 26, 2022. Ms. Hoy reviewed the budget for the event and explained the sponsorship and donation process to the new members. Through the Commission’s fundraising efforts, there is approximately \$2,500 available to donate to a nonprofit that supports the LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Hoy also noted that due to the approaching end of the fiscal year, the HRC was required to move quickly in distribution of the proceeds. Vice-Chair Zwi nominated three organizations: Rockville Rainbow Collective, DC Teens Action and Rainbow Youth Alliance. The Commission held a discussion about these nominated groups and what services they provide for the community. Commissioner Hawkins mentioned that Microsoft has a donation team that may be able to match this donation and will look into those details. The Commission determined to vote on the donation distribution, pending more information about a potential matching donation and the tax status of each of the intended recipients.

Upon motion, seconded, and approved, the Commissioners voted to split the donation funds of \$2,500 evenly among the three nominated nonprofits.

- C. **Update on Commission Vacancies** – Liaison Hoy reported that there is only one vacancy. There are some attendance issues to resolve through the City Clerk’s office with a few members who have missed more than 25% of HRC meetings. If they decide to resign, there will be more vacancies to fill. Co-Chair Rogers will send a welcome packet to new members of the Commission.

V. **Co-Chair Report**

- A. **Annual Program of Events Overview** – Co-Chair Lin provided an overview of the Human Rights Commission’s programs and events, including:

- i. Major Events
 - 1. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
 - 2. Rockville Pride
- ii. Youth Programs
 - 1. Student Ambassador Program
 - 2. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (“IDEA”) Training
- iii. Special Projects
 - 1. Human Rights Day
 - 2. Dispute Resolution
 - 3. Subcommittees on membership, current events, etc.

The commission also discussed collaborative work with other Rockville Boards and Commissions, the Montgomery County Reconciliation Commission (MCRC) and on City events. Members discussed a recent project with the Human Services Advisory Commission where they surveyed the Rockville community about wellness and community needs and several new members requested a copy of the results.

B. **Subcommittee Assignments**

- i. **Student Ambassador Program** – Vice-Chair Zwi explained that the program originated when they joined the HRC at age 18 and wanted the Commission to establish connections into the Rockville area high schools. Co-Chair Lin explained that student ambassadors typically assist the HRC between October and June each year and earn student service learning hours. Planning and outreach for the program need to begin immediately, since the program is typically advertised in the September issue of Rockville Reports. Liaison Hoy will review and revise last year’s materials.
- ii. **Human Rights Day** – Co-Chair Lin said that in preparation for Human Rights Day each December, the student ambassadors create educational slides about the day to be posted on Rockville social media. Mayor and Council issue a proclamation each year. Vice-Chair Zwi shared that the day commemorates the existence of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights and recommend that the HRC send a letter urging Rockville to become a Human Rights City.

VI. Other Committee Reports

A. **Current Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Cullen recapped the status of the statement about gun violence, which had been prepared in the wake of the recent mass shootings. The draft was adopted for submittal to Mayor and Council during the July meeting. Commissioner Cullen has also been tracking the Montgomery County policing in schools discussions and will email the group updates.

VII. Old Business

A. **Montgomery County Reconciliation Commission (MCRC)** – Commissioner Cullen summarized that the MCRC works with the Equal Justice Initiative to lynch sites, two of which were documented in Rockville. She noted that the MCRC holds a non-voting position open for the Rockville HRC. Commissioners Cullen and Hawkins are both interested in participating in MCRC meetings. A formal vote will be held in August to formalize the position candidate.

B. **Board of Supervisors of Elections** – Co-Chair Lin said there have been no updates since the last meeting. Liaison Hoy shared that due to a temporary period of low membership, the BSE was unable to take action in recent meetings, but that they have had recent appointments to resolve the issue.

VIII. New Business and Announcements – Co-Chair Lin thanked everyone for their contributions to the 2022 Pride event. Liaison Davis IV thanked everyone for welcoming him to the group and would like to meet individually with members.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.