Athens Community Relations Commission Meeting Notes
November 10, 2022 | 1pm
Municipal Building Conference Room (1st floor)

1. Welcome and check in – Present: Abigail Otchill, Kristyn Neckles, John Schmieding, Rebecca Robison-Miller

2. Old business:

A. ACSD partnerships at AMS and AHS:
   - Group at high school, 15 students, looking at action projects, maybe a multicultural fair.
   - Middle school update: Mary Biechler from the College of Fine Arts has experience with film around racism and acting out scenarios that encourage discussion and engagement. This will happen at the Arts West on January 25th with the Athens Middle School Theatre Club. The hope is that this leads into a wider discussion group. AMS administration is supportive of this course and furthering small group discussions and scenarios.

B. Community Read:
   - Rebecca provided an update: The book is by Stephanie Land and is called "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive". The community read will start in mid-January with a culminating discussion with Stephanie and local experts on February 22nd as part of the Grover Lecture Series through the College of Health Sciences & Professions. This will be offered on line, at Walter Hall on OU campus and Athens High School. Commission members would like to be supportive of this initiative.

C. UCM follow up:
   John reviewed the background. Lacey works for the City of Athens now. Discussion centered on how to help and heal relationships moving forward and how the commission could be helpful in exploring/discussing various views, pain, loss and how to support people of color.

3. New business:

- Review 2022 work - this will be discussed in December.
- Partnership with Kristyn Neckles: Discussion included how to utilize medical residents to provide education to the community. There is opportunity also for them to experience the community and how they be helpful. Possible areas of programming could include work-life balance, wellness and safe spaces for open discussion. The students could possibly be involved with AMS work through discussion, background stories and creating a speakers bureau. Discussion also focused on a possible connection with health classes.
- Discuss priorities for 2023 – this will be discussed in December
- Meeting schedule
  December 12th-16th - Rebecca will send doodle poll