

City of Athens Community Relations Commission Meeting Notes
June 29, 2022 | 1:00pm-2:00pm
Zoom

Present: Micah McCarey, Rylee Beltran, John Schmieding, Laura Black, Rebecca Robison-Miller, Raymie McKerrow

1. Old business

- a. Juneteenth celebration: ACRC should plan to be a part of the event next year
- b. ACRC social media: Juneteenth posts -Abigail will be building FB page and connecting with local organizations and neighborhood orgs. Members should send bios to Rylee and/or Abigail ASAP.
- c. ACRC role in community: Commission is reminded that it should be responding to community concerns of racism. There have been 2-3 reports, Micah and John have been responding. Need to track concerns and what the response is: mediation, conversation or referral to law enforcement. This will go to a report to council and evaluate if this is acceptable, meets capacity, etc. Questions that remain are: Will this be public information? What information stays confidential? What is considered to be formal vs. conversational? Jurisdiction – only city incidents; university would respond to any complaints on campus but potentially the commission as well
 - Responded to a complaint among neighbors reported by Alan Swank, situation was resolved when John reached out.
 - Concerns with local business -John has spoken to the owner multiple times
 - Another business related concern that has been resolved through attrition.

Micah will do some research and speak to law director. Raymie will help as well.

- d. Expansion of anti-racism work with Athens Middle School: Rachel is contacting Angie Hall, unsure if they have connected. AMS will have a new principal in the fall - John Rogers. He has been supportive in his prior role at the high school. A community member has offered to help in elementary schools and middle school through reading/telling stories in classrooms as well other opportunities. The commission could develop as speakers bureau. This could be built through social media outreach. Laura offered to contact Patton College of Education to see if there is interest. Laura suggested that we meet with John Rogers, Chad Springer and maybe other principles to discuss systemic issues; this could serve as an opportunity to discuss capacity and interest in other programming. John will set up a meeting with John Rogers.
- e. Community read fall 2022: Overview provided but plans are not solidified. The commission would like to be involved and could potentially offer funding and support outreach.
- f. Lacey Rogers/UCM: UCM has hired consultants to help with building change and have invited Lacey to talk, unsure if that has happened. The commission would like to meet with Lacey to see how best to be supportive. This could be to offer to meet with board, make recommendations to the board, and/or fundraise for Lacey. Laura will reach out to Lacey.

2. New business
 - a. Increase communication and outreach with the public and in the community – this will be discussed in July.
 - b. Set August meeting date: This will be established through email for either 8/24 or 8/31
 - c. John will be doing a presentation to city council in July about the work of the commission.
3. Next meeting: July 27th at 1pm at the Municipal Building
4. Adjourn