

Athens Community Relations Commission Meeting
December 12, 2022 | 3pm
City Building Council Chambers (3rd floor)
Meeting Notes

*Members present are in bold

Rylee Beltran

Laura Black

Micah McCarey (city council liaison)

Raymie McKerrow

Abigail Nanayaa

Kristyn Neckles

Rebecca Robison-Miller

John Schmieding

Rachel Siegel

1. Welcome and check in
2. Approve November meeting notes: Rebecca moved to approve and Raymie seconded the motion.
3. Old business:
 - a. Athens MS and HS work: The high school group continues to gain momentum and students are working on flyers to be distributed in academic coaching periods. The middle school theatre club is working with the College of Fine Arts to facilitate and interactive experience about oppression, race and bystander intervention on January 25th. John S. and John Rogers will be scheduling another meeting soon to follow up on other opportunities for collaboration.
Kristyn and Rachel are working with schools to implement opportunities for medical students to connect with students to discuss diversity and potentially support health curriculum in the schools. A mentorship program has also been discussed. There may be opportunity to partner with local organizations doing similar work.
 - b. UCM follow up: John followed up about the celebration idea and was told this would not be an appropriate time. John talked with a UCM board member and was told that UCM will continue their approach of no comment on the situation, based on their interpretation of legal advice. Discussion ensued around the role of the commission and if there are any legal guidelines around how to proceed. Micah is going to draft a letter and have it reviewed by the city law director for guidance about next steps. Other ways to support Lacey were discussed such as a Go Fund Me, having speakers from the NAACP and general acknowledgment of the significant impact this situation has had on the community.
4. New business:
 - a. 2022 review: This will be discussed at the January meeting.

- b. Diversity, equity and inclusion grant opportunity through Bailey's trail system: John reported that ORCA applied for an Appalachian Community Grant that included \$350,000 for diversity, inclusion and equity work.
 - c. 2023 planning: This will be discussed at the January meeting.
 - d. New commission member needed: Recommendations still needed.
- 5. January meeting date and time: Meetings for January, February and March will be held the second Thursday of the month at 3:30pm at the city building. This may have to be moved to 3:00pm based on space availability.

The meeting dates are:

- January 12th
- February 9th
- March 9th

- 6. Adjourn