

Athens Community Relations Commission
January 11, 2024 | 9:00am
Athens Public Library
Meeting Notes

Members present in bold: Izze Kaukonen, **Abigail Otchill**, Jay Mattson, **Micah McCarey (City Council liaison) -via Zoom**, **Raymie McKerrow**, Kristyn Neckles, **Lacey Rogers (City of Athens DEI & A Coordinator) – via Zoom**, **John Schmieding**, **Rachel Siegel**, **Rebecca Robison-Miller**

1. Review November notes:

Raymie made a motion to approve, Micah seconded, notes were approved.

2. Old Business:

- a. **Leadership transition:** Rachel and Rebecca will serve one term acting as co-chairs. John will stay on as a commission member. John will develop a list of all of the projects the ACRC has and is working on so work can be prioritized and distributed to commission members. The goal transition time is February/March of 2024. Micah said the by-laws require the commission to have a chair, vice chair, and secretary. Rachel and Rebecca plan to act as co-chairs so need to discuss which would take chair and vice chair positions. A question was raised about Micah and Lacey acting in executive capacities. John will circulate the most updated by-laws recently approved for review. John moved that Rachel and Rebecca take on the chair and vice chair roles as of the February meeting, Raymie seconded the motion.
- b. **Support and resources for Lacey Rogers as City of Athens DIEA Coordinator:** This is a continued discussion from the fall about how to best support Lacey in her role and how to define responsibilities of the commission, especially when reports about discrimination are made. Members suggested that reporting processes through the COA website needs to be more accessible. Additionally, that reports are routed to Lacey for review and then she will decide how and if to involve the commission. Defining roles in various capacities is still being determined. It was suggested that the ACRC should recommend to Ron Lucas and city council that Lacey start receiving the reports directly and involve the commission in some capacity. The ACRC will send an email to explore changes. Lacey also suggested that the commission prioritize support of the Transgender community and PRISM.
- c. **Membership:** Jay Mattson will not be joining the commission. Julie Goodman is a potential new member, John will invite her to the next meeting. Lacey reported that COA just joined Strong Cities Network; this organizations works with cities across the nation to address issues around racism and implement preventative measures to combat discrimination, it is affiliated with the National League of Cities. Commission members want to make sure there is diversity in who is being invited. Micah will ask the law director if a commission member needs to be eighteen as some high school students may be interested. Each member is asked to bring a name to the February meeting for consideration.
- d. **MLK breakfast:** John and Abby will attend with four high school students. Izze might like to attend as well.
- e. Update on student recruitment efforts for AMS and AHS anti-racism work – discuss at February meeting
- f. Support for LGBTQ+ programming – discuss at the February meeting
 - Transgender supporting projects

- PRISM

3. New Business – discuss at the February meeting
 - a. 2024 planning: Discussion in February
 - b. COA video
4. February and March meeting dates
February 29th from 9am-10:30a at the Athens library in the small meeting room.