

City of Athens Community Relations Commission
February 22, 2024 | 9:00am-10:30pm
Athens Library- Small Meeting Room
Meeting Notes

Members present in bold: Izze Kaukonen, **Raymie McKerrow**, **Kristyn Neckles**, Abigail Otchill, **Rebecca Robison-Miller**, **John Schmieding**, **Rachel Siegel**
Micah McCarey: City Council liaison
Lacey Rogers: City of Athens DEI & A Coordinator
Juli Goodman: Guest

1. Review and approve January 24th notes: Motion to approve by Rachel and Raymie seconded
Review and approve February 8th notes: Motion to approve by Raymie and Rachel seconded
2. Old Business:
 - a. February discrimination reports: The first report has been resolved with no further action. John had advised the law office about this. In regard to the second report, Rachel will follow up this week now that access to the commission email has been granted.
 - b. Discrimination reporting process and flow: Rachel would like to create a document to discuss flow of complaint process and timeline. Lacey and Micah, and the Safety-Service Director all receive the reports now. Lacey will screen and pass on to the commission. Rebecca will draft a flowchart type document. The reporting link needs to be updated, Rebecca will send link with notes and we will review at March meeting.
<https://www.ci.athens.oh.us/FormCenter/Athens-Police-Department-4/Discrimination-Reporting-Form-52>
Micah shared OHIO form: <https://www.ohio.edu/diversity/resources/campus-climate-concerns-team>
 - c. Leadership transition: Thanks to John! Rebecca and Rachel will take on chair and vice-chair roles respectively. Rachel will attend the Racial Equity Coalition meetings on behalf of the commission and and Rebecca will attend the COA bi-weekly meetings.
 - d. Membership discussion: The following people were mentioned as potential new members: Cat Cutcher, Juli Goodman, Ella Strickland.
 - e. Recruitment efforts at AMS and AHS for anti-racism work: Working to recruit students at the high school.
 - d. Support for LGBTQ+ programming: To be discussed at March meeting.
3. New Business:
 - a. Strong cities: The city is already a member – ACRC needs to decide how to respond. It was decided that more information is needed. Micah will amend

the resolution to take out the CRC language. Rachel suggested that Strong Cities and Gaza resolutions should be different.

- b. City Council resolution: Micah introduced a resolution that requests council call for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas, encourages the city and commission utilize the Strong Cities membership for resources around this and how to proceed with other request for action for global issues. Micah asked the commission to review and consider elevating partnership around global issues that impact local citizens.

The commission concluded more information and clarity is needed around the resolution, the commission's involvement moving forward and the resources that Strong Cities offers. The commission will ask this to be tabled so more input from the community can be gathered and a stronger understanding developed.

- c. 2024 priorities and events - March

- Trans Day of Visibility – March 31st
- International Street Fair: April 6th
- Juneteenth Celebration: June 15th?

- d. COA video – Interviews have been completed with other commissions, follow up is needed from CRC members.

- 4. March meeting date: March 28th at 9:00am at the Athens library.