

Community Relations Commission Meeting Agenda Notes
May 30, 2024 | 1:00pm
Athens Public Library

Members present in bold: **Juli Goodman**, Izze Kaukonen, **Natalie Johnson**, **Raymie McKerrow**, **Kristyn Neckles**, **Abigail Otchill**, Rebecca Robison-Miller, **John Schmieding**, **Rachel Siegel**

City Council liaison: Micah McCarey

City of Athens DEI & A Coordinator: **Lacey Rogers**

1. Kristin Read aloud Land Acknowledgement.
2. Review April meeting notes:
 - . Kristyn moved that the minutes be adopted. John seconded the motion.
3. Old business:
 - a. Discrimination reporting process: Rebecca will schedule a meeting with Lacey and Micah for a meeting to discuss.
 - b. Membership updates/terms:

Natalie introduced herself and will speak to her boss next week about potential conflicts with her position at the ACLU. Juli Goodman was approved as a member this past Monday.
 - c. APG response and action/town hall:

Background was provided for Natalie. Members met with Dr. Dashiell, the Director of the School of Journalism at Ohio University, and she recommended that there be a forum/town hall organized about journalistic integrity around marginalized communities and the impact writing styles can have on society in general. Micah suggested that this forum could be part of the Make Respect Visible activities in September. CRC members plan to reach out to APG to ask for a conversation about the article and ask the status of the guidebook they are developing. Lacey asked that this conversation happen sooner than later and that a person of color be invited to the meeting also. Brandon Thompson indicated interest in being part of this meeting.
 - d. Land acknowledgement resolution review:

Micah brought an updated resolution proposal. This has not been provided to council yet however a land acknowledgement has been read at meetings since August 2023. Micah has been working with tribal representatives in Cincinnati, an indigenous student organization, and the Pink Institute to provide feedback. The current version was reviewed and Micah will get an updated resolution to the cooperating groups for more feedback before going to City Council. Possible online resources that further explain the importance of the land acknowledgements are also being considered. There are variations that differ in length and this will most likely be the point choice. CRC members decided to start reading the extended acknowledgement at the beginnings of meetings.

- e. Strong Cities will be in Athens on May 21st 9am-2pm. The commission is invited to meet with them.

4. New business:

- a. New discrimination complaint: Lacey is taking action on this and will follow up if/when needed.
- b. Tabling for Juneteenth – June 22nd : The CRC is registered to attend. Rachel and Rebecca will work with Kristyn to be intentional about information provided and collected at tabling events.
- c. Other: None

5. Meetings will typically be held the last Thursday of each month at 1pm. The next meeting isth at the Athens library.