

Athens Community Relations Commission Meeting Notes
August 29, 2024 | 1:00pm
Athens Library Small Meeting Room

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

City Council liaison: **Micah McCarey**

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

1. Reading of land acknowledgement - Natalie
2. Review July meeting notes – Natalie motioned to approve and Rachel seconded
3. Old business:
 - a. By-law review – Move to September meeting.
 - b. Strong Cities: There are four upcoming trainings. Rebecca will ask Strong Cities to invite all commission members.
 - c. Discrimination reporting: Need process to be approved and documentation should be discussed. Rebecca will ask for a meeting with the law director to address legal mandates, documentation, website changes and liability.
The updated wording for the website form and landing page are being reviewed by law director and Athens Police Department chief.
 - d. Anti-racism meetings/planning updates – Lacey
Lacey, John and Brandon, Rachel have met to discuss communication and budgeting and to plan programming for Athens Middle School and Athens High School. Students attended AHS orientation and they did a training for ACSD administrators, teachers and support staff. Relationship building with more staff needs to be planned to establish more trust and buy-in for the trainings. The AHS anti-racism class has started. The commission members discussed possibly supporting this financially.

Lacey is exploring an all people of color advisory group to work on specific issues and work with city administration. There are discussions about compensation for this advisory board. The commission members discussed ACRC possibly supporting this group financially. The structure of various racial equity meetings is still being discussed.
 - e. Membership recruitment -On-going
4. New Business:
 - a. Community Welcome event
This was scheduled for October 3rd but this conflicts with Rosh Hashanah so a new date will be determined.
 - b. Other events – on hold through the fall
5. Next meeting: September 26th at 1pm at the Athens library.

