

Athens Community Relations Commission
Wednesday, May 25, 12:45 – 1:45 PM
Zoom

In attendance:

Rylee Beltran	ryleembeltran@gmail.com
Abigail Nanayaa Otchill	ao120921@ohio.edu
Rebecca Miller	millerr9@ohio.edu
Vanessa Morgan	morganv1@ohio.edu
Rachel Siegel	rachel@siegeltransformations.com
John Schmieding	john_45701@yahoo.com

Old Business

1. Update on work with Athens City School System

- Drop in format with 23 students this semester; average attendance was 12-18 , it has concluded. Dr. Gibbs was able to attend part of the last class and it seemed valuable to the students and to Dr. Gibbs.
- John will talk with Dr. Gibbs and Chad Springer about the class format for the fall. This could be a non-credit or credit option (half credit) this would require 60 hours of engagement.
- The district has been very supportive and the facilitators are being provided a stipend.
- There is still interest in providing programming at the middle school and elementary schools as well. (Further discussed later in the meeting)
- Highlights from students (please see attached document) will be shared with administration and teachers.
- Projects in the fall: Collecting stories about racism to share – this has started and will continue; recruitment opportunities and a multicultural fair.

2. Update on Juneteenth

- Saturday, June 18th
- Still looking for food vendors and other organizations to table; childrens activities available
- Vanessa will send the flier
- ACRC should have a table – Rachel can do a shift, need other members to attend as well.

3. Internet and social media (Abigail and Rylee)

- Have access now
- Are looking for members to do bios for social media – please send by next week
- Will post for Juneteenth and Pride month

4. New legislation and ACRC Role

- Will get an update from Micah next month

New Business

1. Focus for 2022

Middle School

- Continued interest in developing this but need someone to lead it; there may be opportunity to engage sixth and other grades as well. Rachel will send an email to Angie Hall and include Vanessa to gauge interest.
- John will discuss opportunities for including other schools with Dr. Gibbs but believes he will be supportive.

Community Read

- Rebecca mentioned an opportunity around the book 'Maid', she will send information to the group as it becomes available

Lacey Rogers/UCM

- This continues to be a contentious community situation. UCM is working with consultants to assist with organizational next steps.
- Agreement that ACRC should engage in advocacy around this.
- John will send additional information.

Local business issue

- Reports (and media) around a local business not being welcoming to transgender individuals. This was reported to ACRC, who will not serve in an investigator role but more of a convener and mediator.
- John had a conversation with the business owner that was overall good; Rachel would like to be part of the follow up conversation.

Communication

- Increased communication with the public was discussed. Ideas included: letters to the editor, workshops, Food for Thought events.

6. Next meeting dates:

- June 29th at 1pm
- July 27th at 1p
- August TBD

7. Adjourn