



HARRIS COUNTY LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION

Harris County LGBTQIA+ Commission
lgbtqia.harriscountytexas.gov

Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday May 15, 2024 | 6:00PM
Location: In person: Leonel Castillo Community Center
2101 South St, Houston, TX 77009
Virtual: Zoom

Current Members: Brad Pritchett, Brandon Mack, Diamond Stylz, Giovanni Rosselli, Jeremy Edwards, Kylie McNaught, Maria Gonzalez, Ramiro Fonseca, Victoria Cordova, Meghan Fairbanks

- **Call to Order**
Meeting was called to order at 6:06PM.
- **Approval of minutes from previous meeting postponed until the end of this meeting.**
- **Public Comments (none)**
- **Presentation**
 - Jennifer Battle, MSW et al with the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD regarding the programs and services they offer.
- **Brief recess until 7:05p**
- **Discussion of outstanding onboarding documents.**
 - Any members who still have not completed all onboarding docs need to get those completed ASAP.
- **Overview of last Commissioner's Court and changes to the bylaws.**
 - The LGBTQIA+ Commission is no longer required to follow TOMA (the Texas Open Meetings Act).
- **Discussion of the outstanding open seat.**
 - Per the bylaw change in February, the Pct 3 seat becomes available for open nomination by the Commission soon.
 - Discussion of possible nominees to fill the vacant seat.
- **Discussion of committee meetings.**
 - **Communications Committee:**
 - Outline of proposed ideas and practices for profile management, content, practices, and examples of other media accounts. Also, how we might handle potential situations that could require escalation.
 - No regularly scheduled meetings set at this time.
 - Clarification from the County that we do have permission to create social media platforms for the commission.

- Discussion of potential platforms and handle to be used.
 - **Advocacy Committee:**
 - No report from the Advocacy Committee at this time.
 - No meetings set yet. Kylie to schedule that.
 - **Community Engagement Committee:**
 - Jeremy reports that he has begun creating a directory of LGBTQ+ leaders and organization leaders.
 - No official meeting yet, but Jeremy to set up.
 - Austin has received a copy of the directory of organizations from the Montrose Center.
 - Discussion of the need to establish a regular cadence of meetings for all committees with the suggestion that they be held monthly, and suggestion for more frequent meetings if the need arises for planning upcoming events, etc. And discussion of using a platform such as WhatsApp for communication.
- **Discussion of planning for listening sessions.**
 - Logistics:
 - Hybrid availability. In-person and via Zoom. Speakers and virtual attendees to email the Commission at least 24hrs in advance. Also discussion of moving the location to different parts of the county for accessibility.
 - Schedule:
 - July 17th 6:00pm | Listening session in lieu of having a guest at regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
 - August 14th 6:00pm | Standalone listening session.
 - September 18th 6:00p | Listening session in lieu of having a guest at regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
- **Discussion of planning for larger scale events**
 - Proposal to first schedule a convening of community leaders in.
 - Proposal to schedule a larger event, possibly next year, for the community as a whole and brainstorming what that event might look like.
 - Possible need for a neutral outside moderator.
 - Discuss possible collaboration with the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board.
 - Date set for October 24th for convening with community Leaders.
- **Discussion of Action Items and Planning**
 - Meghan to create graphic
 - Discussion of what the goals are these listening sessions.
 - Brainstorming ideas:
 - Hear, Connect, and Collaborate.
 - Potential for speakers to raise community related issues that might otherwise fall on deaf ears.
 - Education about how the Commission got started and why it exists.
 - Draw inspiration from the bylaws.
 - Calls to action are important.
 - Get social media going – Communications Committee.
 - Communications brainstorming:
 - OutSmart
 - Graphic to be shared.
 - Press releases.
 - Share with other organizations.

- Discussion of potentially tabling at Pride events.
 - Discussion of whether or not to establish and send out rules of engagement and provide those in advance to folks who sign up to speak.
 - Discussion of what social media handle to use.
 - @hclgbtqia
- **Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.**