Harris County LGBTQIA+ Commission
lgbtqia.harriscountytx.gov

Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: **Tuesday January 16, 2024 | 5:30PM**
Location: **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 5:31PM.

➢ **Public Comments:** *(none)*

➢ **Opening Remarks**
  o Commissioner Lesley Briones gave opening remarks
  o Precinct 4 staff called for introductions of all commission members given that there are two new members: Diamond Stylz and Meghan Fairbanks.

➢ **Old Business**
  o Re-visited the following:
    ▪ the purpose/mission established in the bylaws
    ▪ meeting calendar
    ▪ No show policy

➢ **New Business**
  o **Nominations for officers (required chair, vice-chair, & secretary)**
    ▪ Nominations for officer positions opened.
      • Motion to nominate Brad Pritchett for the position of Chair
      • Motion to nominate Brandon Mack for the position of Vice-Chair.
      • Motion to nominate Meghan Fairbanks for the position of Secretary
  o **Discussion of presented nominations**
    ▪ Opened discussion for Chair. No discussion. Vote result: Unanimous yes for Brad to be Chair.
    ▪ Opened discussion for Vice-Chair. No discussion. Vote result: Unanimous yes for Brandon to be Vice-Chair.
    ▪ Opened discussion for Vice Chair nominations. No discussion. Vote result: Unanimous yes for Meghan be Secretary.
    ▪ **Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary positions officially selected.**

  o **Discussion of Commission's Priorities**
    ▪ Discussion based on survey results from unofficial kick-off meeting
      • Mental Health/Healthcare

- Community Engagement
- Youth/Education
- Community Resources
- Harris County Public Policy Issues (public health, homelessness, etc.)
  - Offered opportunity for Meghan and Diamond to give feedback since they were not present at the kickoff.

o **Discussion on how to carry out Commission's Work/Activities**
  - o Discussion of speakers at future meetings
    - Dr. Cody Pyke will speak at the next meeting; Future speakers TBD.
  - o Commission should be "community convener."
  - o Let's begin by looking at the resources that have been removed by state. What are some "low hanging fruit" items that we can implement immediately?
  - o Harm mitigation
    - Be mindful of who is targeting us to prevent harm; for example, if we have database of who can be provider of services, opposition will go after these.
    - Question of how outwardly we can be of our work with the Commission? How openly can we "combat" certain policies?

***************Quick break, meeting will resume at 6:32PM ***************

o **Community Engagement Planning (events)**
  - The Bylaws only call for ONE community engagement event and the annual report. But let's strive for more than the bare minimum
  - Town Meeting 1-style event. great significance, especially those new to Houston
    - Let's not forget that the leadership of this community has changed; we need to accept that and embrace it; acknowledge the history, but keep in mind things have changed
  - Event where we inform of LGBTQIA+ resources (like a health fair)
  - Listening tours
  - Panel discussions
  - In carrying out activities, let's maintain consistent messaging; this could make a huge difference in the feedback from different entities
  - Engage with UT Health Science Center
    - Historically been a very supportive of LGBTQIA+ community
    - Their initiative died off, let's reconnect
  - 2026 FIFA- it would be a missed opportunity if we don't get involved in this.
  - Civic engagement (very relevant now)
  - Let's be very present in those areas outside the loop, often overlooked.
  - Volunteer bulletin board- get more LGBTQIA+ folks involved in volunteerism.
o **Timeline (Possible dates)**
  - A civic engagement prior to elections
  - Something in June for PRIDE
  - Chair suggested let's aim for an **OCTOBER event;** it gives reasonable time frame, we can bring up election month, and October is LGBTQ+ History Month.
o **Annual Report**
  - Due in October; Precinct 4 will check if this flexible.
➢ **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned 7:25PM