

Columbus LGBTQ+ Affairs Commission Meeting

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Columbus City Hall (90 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215), City Council Conference Room (Room 225)

Commissioners Present: Julia Applegate, Siobhan Boyd-Nelson, Peaches Calhoun, Tyson Crenshaw, Jaylah Hollins, Jonathan Keilholz, Robert Leis, Jamie Lenzo, Jasmine Roberts-Crews (Chair), Blaine Saito, Thomas Savage, Jimmie Vera, Riley Williamson

Staff Present: Dr. Love Benton (Office of Diversity and Inclusion), Robert Tobias (City Attorney's Office), Marshall Troxell (Mayor's Office), Dr. Kenyona Walker (Office of Diversity and Inclusion)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Roberts-Crews.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made by Thomas Savage and seconded by Jamie Lenzo. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule

- Chair Roberts-Crews proposed holding regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Commissioners expressed general assent.

Commission Email Protocol

- Chair Roberts-Crews requested a motion to adopt the practice of forwarding all inquiries related to the work of the Commission to LGBTQCommission@columbus.gov.
- A motion to adopt the practice of forwarding all inquiries related to the work of the Commission to LGBTQCommission@columbus.gov was made by Siobhan Boyd-Nelson and seconded by Jaylah Hollins. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioners discussed records retention, public records requirements, and the use of dedicated email accounts for Commission work.
- **A motion to establish official City of Columbus email accounts for the Chair, Vice Chair, and future executive roles, with the option for commissioners to create private dedicated email accounts, was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Peaches Calhoun. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Further discussion addressed email naming conventions and consistency.

City Funding for LGBTQ+ Organizations Memorandum

- Chair Roberts-Crews presented the City Funding for LGBTQ+ Organizations Memorandum prepared by the City Council Legislative Research Office. Love Benton noted that Sam Duling would attend the next meeting to discuss the memo in greater detail.
- Peaches Calhoun requested a digital version of the document. Love Benton agreed to distribute the document via email.
- Commissioners raised questions and considerations regarding:
 - The scope and allocation of funding to Equitas Health and its Safe Point program.
 - Whether funding was restricted to specific services.

- The need for aggregate funding data by organization and project.
 - Clarification of funding sources (e.g., City general fund, state, federal)
- Dr. Love Benton asked commissioners to submit specific questions related to the memo via email in advance of the next meeting.

Commission Webpage, Headshots, and Bios

- Chair Roberts-Crews introduced discussion on adding commissioner headshots to the City website.
- Peaches Calhoun expressed support.
- Marshall Troxell indicated that staff will distribute a fillable form to collect headshots, biographies, and public-facing contact information from the commissioners.

Communication Protocol

- Chair Roberts-Crews discussed expectations regarding electronic communications among the commissioners between meetings.

Conflict of Interest Policy

- Chair Roberts-Crews invited Robert Tobias to present an overview of the City's conflict of interest policy. Robert Tobias provided guidance, followed by questions and discussion.

Bylaws Review

- Chair Roberts-Crews led discussion on proposed bylaw revisions, prioritizing substantive comments.
- Article I, Section IV
 - Proposal to add a mission statement aligned with statutory language.
 - Support expressed for cross-referencing relevant city code.
- Article II, Section I
 - Consensus favored accepting nominations from the floor, including self-nominations.
- Article II, Section II
 - Discussion focused on clarification of removal procedures.
 - Consensus reached to retain existing language.
- Article III, Section I
 - Discussion of timing of and process for elections.
 - Proposal to hold elections in October.
 - Vice Chair would serve as Acting Chair if the Chair resigns.
- Article III, Section II
 - Chair must submit resignation notice to Vice Chair and support staff.
- Article III, Section IV
 - Support expressed for public, ex-officio participation on committees.
 - Discussion of potential standing and special committees, including:
 - Health and human services committee
 - Executive committee
 - Community engagement and outreach committee
 - Advocacy and policy committee
- Robert Tobias will distribute a red-lined version of the bylaws for review in follow-up to the meeting.

- Due to time constraints, remaining bylaw discussions will take place at a future meeting.

Other Business

- Monthly meetings confirmed.
- Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.
- Discussion regarding livestreaming/recording meetings. Commissioners noted accessibility considerations for community members.
- Chair Roberts-Crews requested that official email accounts be established by Friday, February 27, 2026.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Robert Leis. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.