THE CITY OF COLUMBUS ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

Columbus LGBTQ+ Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Location: Columbus City Hall (90 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215), 2nd Floor, City Council Conference Room (Room 225)

Commissioners Present: Julia Applegate, Siobhan Boyd-Nelson, Jaylah Hollins, Jonathan Keilholz, Robert Leis, Jasmine Roberts-Crews (Chair), Blaine Saito, Thomas Savage, Riley Williamson

Commissioners Absent: Peaches Calhoun, Tyson Crenshaw, Jamie Lenzo

Staff Present: Sam Duling (Legislative Research Office), Raven Ho (Department of Development), Marshall Troxell (Mayor's Office), Kenyona Walker (Office of Diversity and Inclusion)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair Roberts-Crews.

Welcome and Announcements

- Chair Roberts-Crews shared that the Commission webpage has been updated to include commissioner headshots, biographies, and email addresses as well as the Commission's meeting schedules and meeting minutes.
- Commissioners discussed the process for requesting future website updates. Staff noted that requests may be directed to Marshall Troxell, Sam Duling, and Kenyona Walker.
- Chair Roberts-Crews recognized outgoing City Auditor Megan Kilgore as the first openly LGBTQ+ Auditor in City history and expressed well wishes to newly appointed Auditor Jacqueline Lewis.
- Chair Roberts-Crews acknowledged the resignation of Jimmie Vera from the Commission and expressed hope that the vacant Council-appointed seat be filled by the Commission's May 20 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Robert Leis. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Commission Bylaws

- Chair Roberts-Crews opened discussion regarding the latest draft of the Commission bylaws.

- Commissioners discussed various items in the draft bylaws, including:
  - Revisions to language related to committee descriptions and structure.
  - Terminology updates, including replacing "chairperson" with "chair."
  - Clarification of committee responsibilities, including external communications and media engagement.
- A motion to adopt the bylaws as drafted was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Riley Williamson. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Commission Priorities and Goals

- Chair Roberts-Crews facilitated a discussion regarding the Commission's priorities and goals. The Chair referenced Chapter 179 of the Columbus City Codes as the foundation for the Commission's purpose and outlined several preliminary priorities, including:
  - Establishing governance structures and clarifying the Commission's mission.
  - Developing a comprehensive community engagement strategy.
  - Mobilizing health, economic, educational, and cultural opportunities for LGBTQ+ residents.
  - Monitoring policy developments impacting the LGBTQ+ community at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Commissioners expressed support for ambitious goals while emphasizing the importance of grounding the Commission's work in active listening and community engagement. Additional discussion among Commissioners included:
  - The importance of consistent public messaging regarding the Commission's work.
  - Potential development of a palm card or one-page informational resource.
  - Exploring surveys or other tools to gather community feedback.

Vice Chair Election

- Chair Roberts-Crews opened consideration of the candidates for Vice Chair, Julia Applegate and Thomas Savage, and outlined the process for the election.
- Julia Applegate and Thomas Savage each provided remarks regarding their interest in serving in the role and responded to questions from Commissioners.
- Following discussion, Commissioners cast their votes for Vice Chair. Julia Applegate received one vote in favor, cast by Julia Applegate. Thomas Savage received eight votes in favor, cast by Siobhan Boyd-Nelson, Jaylah Hollins, Jonathan Keilholz, Robert Leis, Chair Jasmine Roberts-Crews, Blaine Saito, Thomas Savage, and Riley Williamson. Thomas Savage received majority support and was elected Vice Chair of the Commission.

Discussion of Public Statement Process

- Chair Roberts-Crews facilitated discussion regarding the process for drafting and issuing public statements on behalf of the Commission.
- Commissioners discussed:
    - The importance of timely and collaborative statement development.
    - Opportunities for media engagement beyond written statements.
    - The role of the future Community Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee in drafting statements.
    - Establishing a review period for Commissioners prior to public release.
- Consensus generally supported a process in which draft statements would be developed through the Community Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee, reviewed by the Chair, and circulated to Commissioners for timely feedback prior to release.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Siobhan Boyd-Nelson and seconded by Blaine Saito. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.