THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL

Columbus LGBTQ+ Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Location: Columbus City Hall (90 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215), 2nd Floor, City Council Chambers

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

Commissioners Absent: Tyson Crenshaw, Jaylah Hollins

Staff Present: Sam Duling (Legislative Research Office), Robert Tobias (City Attorney's Office), Marshall Troxell (Mayor's Office)

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

Welcome and Announcements
- Chair Roberts-Crews welcomed Commissioners and discussed upcoming Pride Month activities.
- Chair Roberts-Crews announced that Adam Scott Cogar is expected to be appointed to the Commission during City Council's meeting on Monday, June 1.

Approval of Minutes
- A motion to approve the April 28, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Siobhan Boyd-Nelson. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Pride Month Community Engagement Opportunities
- Chair Roberts-Crews invited Marshall Troxell to provide an update on upcoming Pride Month engagement opportunities, including the City Hall Pride Illumination and Shellabarger Illuminator Award Ceremony at Columbus City Hall on Monday, June 1 at 8 p.m.; the City's participation in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March on Saturday, June 20; the Commission's Community Listening Session in Council Chambers at Columbus City Hall on Thursday, June 25 at 6 – 8 p.m.; and the development of a palm card promoting the work of the Commission and opportunities for engagement.
- Commissioners discussed opportunities to leverage Pride Month events to increase awareness of the Commission and promote the upcoming Community Listening Session.

- Commissioners discussed distribution strategies for the palm card, including leaving cards at community centers, coffee shops, and other community spaces; creating larger signage or posters; and developing a virtual version for use on social media.
- Commissioners discussed promoting the Community Listening Session through community calendars, area commissions, Department of Neighborhoods networks, and other existing City and community communication channels.
- Commissioners noted that the Community Listening Session should be framed as the first of several opportunities for the Commission to hear from residents throughout the community and discussed the possibility of developing an evergreen palm card, poster, or digital design for future use.

Discussion of Committee Composition, Expectations, and Next Steps

- Chair Roberts-Crews opened discussion regarding the Commission's standing committees, including committee composition, responsibilities, and next steps.
- Chair Roberts-Crews reviewed the initial committee structure and membership, including the Executive Committee; Advocacy and Policy Committee; Community Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee; and Health and Social Services Committee.
- Chair Roberts-Crews noted that the bylaws provide that each committee should have no more than five committee members and that non-Commission members appointed to serve on a committee may not outnumber Commissioners on that committee.
- Vice Chair Savage discussed how Commission meetings may operate as committees become established, noting that future meetings can include committee reports and updates to the full Commission.
- Commissioners discussed committee expectations, including the Chair's recommendation that committees generally meet monthly for approximately 90 minutes, approximately two weeks after each full Commission meeting, and may consider establishing recurring meeting dates for ease of scheduling.
- Staff provided guidance regarding public notice requirements for committee meetings and offered to assist committee chairs with submitting meeting notices and reserving City meeting spaces.
- Commissioners discussed potential meeting locations, accessibility considerations, hybrid and virtual meeting logistics, and the importance of coordinating committee schedules to avoid overlap.
- Commissioners discussed opportunities to promote committee meetings and Commission activities through the Commission webpage, existing City

communication channels, potential social media tools, and lessons learned from other City commissions.
- Chair Roberts-Crews encouraged committees, during their first meeting, to further develop their work priorities, refine their committee descriptions, identify preliminary goals, and consider how they would like to engage during the upcoming Community Listening Session.

Consideration of Hybrid or Virtual Meeting Policy
- Chair Roberts-Crews invited Robert Tobias to provide an overview of the draft hybrid or virtual meeting policy.
- Robert Tobias noted that the draft policy had been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office for compliance with legal requirements.
- Commissioners discussed practical considerations associated with hybrid and virtual meetings, including technology needs, public access, recording and records retention, and potential use of the City's Webex accounts for virtual committee meetings.
- Staff noted their willingness to assist with setting up virtual meetings as needed.
- A motion to approve the hybrid or virtual meeting policy was made by Blaine Saito and seconded by Jamie Lenzo. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation and Discussion of the City Funding for LGBTQ+ Organizations Memorandum
- Chair Roberts-Crews invited Sam Duling to present the City funding for LGBTQ+ organizations memorandum prepared by the Legislative Research Office.
- Sam Duling provided an overview of the memorandum.
- Commissioners discussed the need for additional context regarding the City's funding landscape, including funding sources, grant processes, funding gaps, and how funded programs directly serve LGBTQ+ residents.
- Commissioners discussed the potential value of learning more about City finances and deeper committee engagement to help the Commission better understand funding processes and inform future recommendations.
- Chair Roberts-Crews noted that she would consider how to assign further review of the issue and identify questions to ensure the Commission has the information needed for further analysis.

Public Comment
- Shannon Schneider, Learning & Development Coordinator at Stonewall Columbus, provided public comment and shared information regarding Stonewall Columbus's workforce development initiative.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Peaches Calhoun and seconded by Jonathan Keilholz. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.