

Columbus LGBTQ+ Affairs Commission Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

Location: 90 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215, Council Chambers

Commissioners present: Chair Roberts-Crews, Vice Chair Savage, Commissioners Keilholz, Crenshaw, Calhoun, Cogar, Hollins, Lenzo, and Boyd-Nelson

Commissioners absent: Leis, Williamson, Saito, and Applegate

City staff: Samuel Duling & Raven Ho

Chair called meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Calhoun moved to adopt May minutes, seconded by Lenzo. May meeting minutes were approved.

Chair expressed wish to meet in City Hall 225 from now on.

Welcome to new Commission member, Adam Scott Cogar. Adam shared his biography.

Chair opened a discussion to prepare for the listening session scheduled for June 25th.

- Is there a safety plan?
- Four dialogue officers will be present for the event.
- What is the existing security protocol for meetings and events in City Hall?
- Calhoun requested a sign-in sheet.
- Duling will ask for more info on security.
- Keilholz mentions offering a script to Commissioners for conversation and de-escalation.
- Keilholz also shares proposed itinerary of listening session: introduction of the Commission, ice breakers, active listening, a prioritization activity, and data collection to support a report-out.
- Boyd-Nelson suggests we print out Commissioners biographies for the event.
- Vice Chair Savage requested a graphic like a timeline to explain the Commission's progress to date, as well as info like the Commission's website and logo.
- Duling explained that the room will need to be flipped after a hearing in Chambers that will end at 5:00 p.m., one hour before the event. The Commission asked if folding chairs will be available.
- Marshall has name tents, those are needed for the event. Will the Commissioners have name badges?
- Cogar asked if Commissioners can get business cards. Too, could guests at meetings scan a QR code to share their information and complete a speaker slip?
- City staff will take notes and minutes, and Boyd-Nelson will help with capturing testimony and feedback during the active listening session.
- The basic prompt for attendees will be asked through the lens of each committee (ie policy, health, community engagement).

- Cogar will create a sign-in sheet and QR code for speaker slips.
- Keilholz requested a microphone for the event.
- Chair mentioned safe and affordable housing, affirming healthcare, school and work protections, and safety as candidates for main discussion points during the listening sessions.
- Vice Chair Savage asks about the process to report the findings from the listening session to City Council and the Mayor.

Advocacy and Policy Committee Update

- Met on June 8th, 2026
- Established guiding principles
- Plans to monitor local, state, and federal policies that will affect the LGBTQ+ community and share information with the Commission
- Attention to at-risk groups like youth, seniors, communities of color, etc.
- HB249, SB71, HB300, SB70, HB136, marriage equality constitutional efforts, etc.
- Interested in understanding not only LGBTQ+ programs but also other public services that are especially relevant to the LGBTQ+ community
- Identifying resources to help people understand their rights and how to become eligible for services
- Teach people how to engage and offer testimony in official formats
- Preparing questions for the upcoming listening session
- Hollins requested more information about the historical context of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation

Community Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee Update

- Met on June 1st, 2026
- Discussed procedures and goals to support Commission mission and public engagement
- Work with City staff to create a one-stop to learn about the Commission
- Draft an audience map of stakeholders.
- Assessing and developing messaging by audience to ensure accessibility
- Developing a social media policy, awaiting more guidance from the City Attorney

Health and Social Services Committee Update – no report, meeting June 30th in City Hall Room 225

Public Comment

- Penelope Rupert (she/her) – organizer of trans youth for 6+ years; planning to attend the listening session; notes the incarceration of trans youth and the state's ability to place trans people in institutions that do not align with their identities; advocates for a modernization of HIV criminal penalties (decriminalization).
- Isaiah – asking about microphones for the listening session; notes concern for disability accessibility and asked if the Commission can have an ASL interpreter.

Adjournment moved by Hollins and seconded by Lenzo. Adopted at 7:31 p.m.