City of Pittsburgh
LGBTQIA+ Commission
April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Commissioners & Staff Present

Leonard Orbovich
Cathryn “Cee Cee” Calhoun
Julian McClain
Sarah Rosso
Deryck Tines
Guillermo Velazquez
Kevin Carroll
Councilperson Barb Warwick
Donny Donovan
Anne Marie Ellison
Corey Buckner Mayor’s Supervisor of Community Affairs

Meeting was called to order by Corey Buckner at 5:30 PM

I. Roll Call – Corey called roll; quorum present

II. February meeting minutes approved- Julian Motioned & Donny **Second** & all **Approved**

III. Acknowledgement of Public Comment – no public comment was reported

IV. Officers and Standing Committees

A. Co-Chair Reports
   a. Julian holds an update to discuss marketing and visibility facilitated by Richard with City Theater booklet (will send link) with graphics created by Corey
   b. Julian mentions that he sat in on the Gender Equity Commissions meeting and wants to continue conversations around coexisting agenda items
   c. Julian Addresses Alexander's resignation and plans to look for new commissioners

V. New Business

A. Bylaws say that commission seats should based on expertise and outstanding appointees would be in senior and housing; looking for people who qualify in housing or aging population

a. (not sure who) Mentioned that Derek who is unable to speak for himself in this meeting works with the aging population, no one mentioned that does housing work
b. Corey mentions that remaining seats based off of representative from community relations and appointee of mayors office
c. Sarah suggests potential bylaw changes regarding structure of enforcement and structure of officers
    i. Structure of commission is to have three co-chair structure and there are other vacancies
    ii. Sarah mentions that whether or not bylaws are adjusted today to make enforcement structure stricter, there are already people who are not meeting expectations for attendance

B. Addressing Vacancy
    a. Current vacant offices are Community Outreach and third co-chair, secretary, and treasurer
    b. Corey recommends someone who works in housing
    c. Mayor O'Connor has someone in mind but Corey does not know their background
    d. Sarah mentions concern that there are so few chairs that priority should be a full slate of commissioners so people interested can fill and learn about the roles
    e. Julian asks for what other officer positions need filled besides community engagement and believes they have minimum requirement and asks for volunteers for positions
        i. Corey addresses that this position will be the first item on list of unfinished business

C. How to deal with Attendance Rules
    a. Corey addresses that Chauntey has been absent from meetings for three months
        i. **Motion** (not sure who) motions for warning to be sent to Chauntey for missing 3 of the 4 standing meetings
        ii. **Second** Donny seconds
        iii. **Approved** to send warning to Chauntey
    b. Corey suggests motion for new rules of enforcement around attendance
    c. Corey addresses suggestion of drafting a letter to Mayor or City Council recommending removal but last month motion was not made to adopt this
    d. Sarah says that people not meeting attendance rules need documented and notified; asks what we want to do about this enforcement
        i. Now that committee has voting powers they chose a bylaw amendment that would create a warning after certain meetings missed that goes to absent members and then is sent to mayors office

D. Replacing Community Engagement Chair Position (previously held by Alexander)
    a. Corey suggests that this could be held off until next meeting and asks Julian if he believes this position needs filled immediately
    b. Julian says he believes position needs filled soon because commission all believes they need to be more involved in the community
    c. Julian suggests nominations for position
        i. **Motion** Julian motions to nominate candidates for new Community Engagement position
        ii. Corey suggests waiting since Derek is not present and two other positions may need filled due to Shantae's absence
        iii. **Second** Anne Marie
        iv. **Approved** to proceed with community engagement nominations
        v. (not sure who) Nominated Donny for community outreach engagement chair (seconded by someone)
        vi. Corey asks for other nominations and plans to send out email for any other nominations

E. Nominations for vacant position
    a. No nominations for third co-chair
    b. (someone) suggests sending out responsibilities of co-chair and community engagement chair
    c. Anne Marie suggests adding position responsibilities to by-laws since they are not currently listed there
    d. Lenny says offices established and defined in bylaws are three co-chairs, treasurer, secretary, and community outreach coordinator (unclear on whether or not they need to be clear)
    e. Corey asks whether descriptions need to be updated and members say they have not looked at them in years
        i. Donny asks if three-cochairs are the community engagement officer, secretary officer, and treasurer officer or if these are separate roles
        ii. Sarah responds explains that executive committee comprises of 6 people which includes the three co-chairs that have specific duties in the by-laws
        iii. Corey checks to make sure they did anything against the by laws with nomination process
            1. Sarah says she will confirm but they need Donny to accept and Lenny or someone will need to collect and tally votes which is what typically should occur
            2. (someone I am not sure who) says they are trying to become more well-versed in the by laws as well
        iv. Donny accepts nomination and suggests that people not present in meeting should be able to self-nominate as well (for all 3 vacant positions)
        v. Sarah said that because it is a vacancy they are combining annual january election process and vacancy process and they can elect by secret ballot process ; suggests tabling this for next week

        vi. Corey says he will send out an email and wait for a week for people to respond for nominations and next meeting they will hold elections; Lenny confirms

F. Corey asks for Kevin to assistant him on Human Relations Investigation in Pittsburgh Park
    a. Corey asks Kevin to speak more to this case
    b. Kevin states that this case went to public hearing and public source did article on it (people can access information on this case)
    c. Dogwalker faces verbal and physical assault from DPW worker; city did remedy the incident and case has been mostly wrapped up
    d. Sarah adds that she had a call with the commission and they are looking at legislation that would update policy for anti-discrimination training to be every couple of years instead of just when hired and to require it for employees who were hired before the training went into effect
    e. (not sure who) asks if the city put out a statement; Corey responds that the commission did and usually does in these situations
    f. Since the case went public hearing Kevin offers to share article with everyone so they can understand the full case
G. Corey asks Kevin and Ann Marie to talk about first meeting with Gender Equity Commission
    a. Corey says it was a great conversation
    b. They planned to create a handbook for every new commissioner that comes on; he is getting an example from the governors commission
    c. Discussed work around bathrooms, menstrual products, contraception
        i. Anne Marie adds reproductive leave
    d. Challenges outlined in meeting and what is required to overcome (internal policy, legislative change, Mayors office involvement)
    e. Corey says they are hoping by next month there will be more information to provide to commission and will be working more with deputy chief operating officer regarding city facilities and what already exists
    f. Anne Marie says meeting was very collaborative and highlights that they have no idea about costs; once they have a better idea they will be able to strengthen their advocacy and asks
    g. Corey mentions meeting with the Governors LGBTQ staff representative and Montgomery county has an LGBTQ commission who they plan to meet monthly with as well as plans to join national working group of municipalities in cities
    h. Corey mentions sending report of council person Warrick's work to city council and needs to keep in mind this goes out every quarter
H. Corey asks to move on to unfinished business
    a. Bylaws
        i. Corey reiterates that the bylaws already have the means to hold people accountable; just a matter on how we are enforcing it updating bylaws
        ii. Julian adds that they do not have voting power but since bylaws outline enforcement structures they can move forward with sending out first warning regarding attendance

        1. Not sure how much rewriting is needed or if it needs a new motion or if commissions should just practice how it reads
    iii. Corey adds that you need ⅔ vote to change any amendments and there needs to be notice in advance to entire commission
    iv. Sarah says if we need to make bylaws changes necessary steps need taken so they are intact; if any written changes need to be made they have to be put forward and ⅔ people need to say yes and then it goes on agenda as item to finalize for next meeting
        1. Lenny echos that this is exactly what they are doing with Shantae and there are no changes to bylaws occurring they're just enforcing
    v. Corey asked commission to keep him posted on if Shantae doesn't respond and when a letter will be sent to Mayors office if she doesn't
    vi. Sarah clarifies that notices, letter and follow up are in response to 4 absences not 3

I. Townhall Meeting
    a. Corey brings up discussion of holding meeting in July because pride month is coming up
    b. Corey mentions discussion with Anne Marie about how many people are in room during town hall meeting
    c. Corey suggests having a working group especially around planning for town hall meeting; Corey can provide by having city departments there but needs to know info for getting it on Mayors calendar
        i. Julian says there were other departments at meetings including HR and Officer (Delando?) on how to keep community safe during pride; community agreed with what was said
        ii. Suggests finding a date so they can put it on Mayors calendar but moving forward with the same format
    d. Corey asks if anyone can get hold of Adriana and Julian says he will reach out to get slideshow from her as well as if anyone wants to work with him for planning meeting to edit presentation since everyone will be busy in June
        i. Juilian and Donny both volunteer to help and Corey says he will follow up with them offline
        ii. Julian offers to have it at his space in uptown again (but there is construction and small parking lot)
            1. Anne Marie says that this space is not ADA accessible and advocates for having it in a different space
            2. Julian says they are working on accessibility in the future
            3. Corey says offers one of City's spaces as they are ADA accessible and Guillermo and Cece offer options as well
    e. Corey suggests a follow up in May with Julian and Donny on townhall date, location, and logistics
    f. Lenny wants Chief Landon to say a few words at town hall; Corey says he should be willing to and if anyone wants anyone else to be there he can make it happen

J. Pride
    a. Corey says at working group meeting they discussed they want to participate and table at pride; asks Julian to table for cheap rate or free
    b. Chief Lando said last year they should get more officers involved as well to help out
    c. Corey wants City of Pittsburgh to march in parade and asks commission if they have marched in the past
        i. Lenny says they have but not formally as a unified commission
        ii. Guillermo asks if they have a banner; commission only has a tablecloth and Corey has tent/table
    d. Julian wants commission to be there and city police (two separate tables) and emergency funding committee can help out with this
    e. Corey asks if there are other events the commission wants to make sure they are present at; has a list of all pride events occurring across PA that he will share
        i. Suggests a spreadsheet where members can sign up to table at different events
        ii. Anne Marie and Donny address that it would be impossible to table at every pride but should try and hit main neighborhoods
        iii. Lenny raises staffing concerns making sure people stick to their commitment when they sign up for tabling
    f. Corey asks someone to take lead for having people sign up
        i. Julian volunteers and Corey sending him spread sheet
    g. Donny suggests making sure newer prides are on the list / updated

K. Corey asks commission if they want to work with gender equity commission
    a. Julian says while building up capacity he can take on cross messaging since he has to be at both meetings
        i. Wants staffers
        ii. Donny offers to be on working group with the gender equity commission
    b. Corey suggests Julian find someone else from gender equity commission as well
    c. Julian Donny and person from gender equity commision can join in on staffers monthly meeting

Motion Anne Marie makes motion to approve meeting minutes
Second Julian seconds motion
Approved to pass meeting minutes
a. Warning will be sent out to Shantae
b. Email sent out about vacancies
c. Secret vote will occur next month once nominations made for anyone who accepts (votes emailed to Lenny or Corey and they will go over votes and announce results according to bylaws)

d. Julian asks who approves of Mayors Appointments and if he can expedite them
    i. Corey says he is not going to one-by-one appoint and instead sends many names for commissions at once and city council will look at them
    ii. Would begin in May (hopefully) and Corey will get better estimate

VII. Announcements

A. Lenny says on May 26th Pittsburgh Public Schools will be hosting Gender and Sexuality Alliance Summit hosted by Chatham (bringing in kids from most schools)

VIII. Adjournment

A. **Motion** Julian to Adjourn
B. (not sure who) **Second** Motion
C. **Approved** Meeting Adjourned