

City of Pittsburgh
LGBTQIA+ Commission
June 2026 Regular Meeting

June 16, 2026 • 5:30-7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners and Staff Present

Leonard Orbovich
Catherine Calhoun
Julian McClain
Chaunten Porter
Sarah Rosso
Guillermo Velazquez
Kevin Carrol
Anne Marie Ellison
Hannah Adelson
Sharon Spooner

- I. Roll Call – no one called roll; quorum not present
- II. Officers and Standing Committees
 - A. Co-Chair Reports
 - 1. Pride tabling
 - a) Julian said tabling went well. Our location was prime for visibility and many people approached with interest in learning more and getting involved.
 - b) Corey explained that Dina sent an email to him, Chief Lando, and David Onorato regarding a few issues that occurred at Pride. He will follow up tomorrow, but would appreciate some context from anyone who attended. Julian heard that someone was hit with a golf cart. Corey mentions he also heard about problems with parking variances that prevented vendors from unloading properly.
 - 2. Townhall meeting and Outfest
 - a) The Mayor is free on October 7th or 8th at 6 pm. Corey says we will opt for the 8th.
- III. Unfinished Business
 - A. Grant for LGBTQIA+ context statement project
 - 1. Sharon, from the Department of City Planning, explained that we have received a grant from the PA Historic and Museum Commission. She shares that the Dept worked to research

important resources, people, and places, then applied for the grant with the help of a letter from the Commission. The Engage webpage has more information. Corey asks if any further help from the Commission is needed. Sharon says it would be helpful for both Corey and a Commission representative to serve on the selection committee for a consultant. Since the project end date is September 2027, the committee ought to convene as soon as possible.

B. Vacancies discussion – for Secretary, Treasurer, Community Engagement positions

1. Corey says Sarah made a recommendation for an Aging Community representative, named Edie, and also has received the resume of Nelson Ortega, the Pride Coordinator for Association of Latino Professionals for America. He will have the Mayor recommend Nelson to City Council. Sarah will forward Edie's information to Corey and others.
2. Sarah highlights that Kathy Boyle, former Commissioner, passed away on May 30th. They will soon share information about the upcoming Celebration of Life.
3. Guillermo shares that he intends to step down, and has talked with a candidate named Howard who may potentially replace him. Howard is involved with housing resources. Corey would appreciate being introduced.

C. MEI scorecard report

1. Corey notes that Pittsburgh has historically received full scores. There should be no reason why this year we wouldn't, but Corey and Hannah are working to guarantee that all points are accounted for by looking into various resources provided by and within the City.

D. Collaboration with GEC (single-stall restrooms, reproductive leave, free menstrual and contraceptive products)

1. Hannah reports that she has been working on researching funding structures so the City can work towards providing free menstrual and contraceptive products in public facilities. Anne Marie says she is looking into the request for accessing the inventory of public restrooms and will hopefully share it with Hannah soon. She is simply waiting for some contractors to finalize their work.
2. Corey cites a conversation he had earlier today with representatives from Central Outreach, in which they tentatively agreed to help the City access discounts for buying condoms to freely provide to residents.

E. Finance Report

1. Corey said he did not get the chance to inquire about the finance report with the right person.

IV. New Business

A. Pride month invitation to the Mayor's –

1. Corey informs everyone that the Commission has been invited to the Mayor's office on June 29th, 3 pm. A formal invitation will be sent by email later this week. Several Commissioners report that they will not be in attendance.

B. SOGIE training

1. Corey suggests hosting two trainings in the future, with an open invitation to any City employee. We might even be able to get HR in on it. Julian reminds that we thought about doing one in November, between the election and Thanksgiving. Kevin (?) shares that CHR has pamphlets and other training resources. Corey says that we could even expand to rope in the Housing Authority or Public Safety.

V. Announcements

A. [Regional Disparity Study](#)

1. Corey says this study is requesting LGBTQIA+ business owners fill out a lengthy survey that would be very relevant to many Commissioners.

B. Pittsburgh Ballroom Community

1. Chaunty inquires if the Commission has ever looked into collaborating with the Ballroom Community. Corey says it is a great idea, though we ought to currently prioritize our vacancies. Chaunty offers that Community representatives should certainly be present at events like on World AIDS Day. Julian says that in the past, we have made a point to include Ballroom, particularly at OutFest.

C. Commission Visibility

1. Julian says that he, Corey, and Sarah were all at Pirates Pride Night. There is a video with the Mayor from that night, as well as one of a flag unfurling, the first pitch, and Dr. CC MC'ing at the Pride Parade. Perhaps this media can be shared on the City's socials to increase visibility.

D. GE Commission survey

1. Julian says they are working on a survey about demographics to be sent out to all City departments. It would give insight on people's identities and perhaps could be communicated about in tandem with SOGIE training.

E. Communication

1. Corey wants to come up with a more effective mode of communication. Corey says that perhaps he and the co-chairs will brainstorm together. Julian offers that a group chat exists, but not all Commissioners are on it. Maybe it should be updated with everyone's contacts so that if we do not meet quorum, we can more easily request others' presence.