

City of Pittsburgh
LGBTQIA+ Commission
January 2026 Regular Meeting
January 20, 2026 • 5:30-7:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Commissioners Present

Leonard Orbovich
Catherine Calhoun
Julian McClain
Sarah Rosso
Barb Warwick
Donal Donovan
Alexander Gray

Laura Byko, District 5 Chief of Staff, Interim LGBTQIA+ Commission Staff Liaison

Meeting was called to order by Laura Byko at 5:40 pm

- I. Roll Call – L. Byko called roll; quorum present
- II. No prior meeting minutes available for approval
- III. Acknowledgement of Public Comment – no public comment was reported
- IV. Officers and Standing Committees
 - a. Co-Chair Reports
 - i. Julian McClain reported on December 1 City Council proclamation recognizing World Aids Day
- V. Unfinished Business
 - a. Commission Recommendations
 - i. Unisex Restrooms, SOGIE Training, Free Menstrual Products, Reproductive Leave
 1. L. Byko to get dollar estimates from HR for cost of implementation and report back
- VI. New Business
 - a. Commission Planning and Goals for 2026
 - i. Membership – meeting quorum, bringing on new members
 1. Leonard Orbovich raised possibility of creating or enforcing attendance requirements for commissioners
 2. Julian McClain raised that these requirements do exist in commission bylaws
 3. Julian McClain to report back after co-chair meeting
 4. Leonard Orbovich asked if new administration has appointed DEI director, L. Byko did not know
 5. L. Byko reported that City code requires a staff liaison to the LGBTQIA+ Commission, will ask new administration about DEI coordinator and plans to appoint staff liaison
 6. Alexander Gray raised for discussion concerns about email sent

out to commission members requesting their resignation

7. **Motion** made by Julian McClain to meet with new administration's Liaison in February Meeting

8. Leonard Orbovich seconded

9. **Approved** by voice vote without objection

ii. Events – 2025 Town Hall, OutFest

1. Julian McClain raised that there is funding allocated to put on OutFest again in 2026

2. Donal Donovan raised that having another town hall with Mayor O'Connor could be a good way to establish a relationship with the new administration, if the administration is interested

iii. Community Visibility and Relationship-building

iv. Social Media

1. L. Byko to re-up request for .gov emails for commissioners with Department of Innovation and Performance

2. Julian McClain reported that previous guidance was communications should be coordinated with Mayor's office

v. Budget Requests for 2027

b. ACT UP Pittsburgh statement on Prison Rape Elimination Act protections for transgender inmates at Allegheny County Jail

i. Alexander Gray brought up a statement from ACT UP Pittsburgh about the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and recommendations for the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board re: protections for transgender and intersex people held at the Allegheny County Jail.

ii. **Motion** made by Julian McClain for Commission to issue a brief statement of support for the ACT UP Pittsburgh statement

iii. Donal Donovan seconded

iv. **Approved** by voice vote without objection

VII. Announcements

a. Julian McClain announced TrueT has two events taking place for Black HIV Awareness Day, February 6 and February 7

VIII. Adjournment

a. **Motion** to adjourn made by Alexander Gray

b. Seconded by Leonard Orbovich

c. **Approved** by voice vote without objection