

City of Pittsburgh
LGBTQIA+ Commission
November 2024 Regular Meeting
November 19, 2024 • 5:30 PM

Minutes

Commissioners present:

Cathryn Calhoun
Donal Donovan
Alexander Gray
Billy Hileman
Julian McClain
Lenny Orbovich
Sarah Rosso
Guillermo Velazquez

Adrianna Branin — IDEA Manager

Meeting was called to order by Acting Secretary Billy Hileman at 5:40 pm

- I. Roll Call -- B. Hileman called roll; quorum present
- II. No prior meeting minutes available for approval
- III. Acknowledgement of Public Comment – no public comment was reported.
- IV. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
 - a. Co-Chairs — no report
 - b. Secretary's Report
 - i. Regular Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM.
 - ii. Commission Officer Positions open in December 2024
 - 3 Co-Chairs
 - 1 Secretary
 - 1 Treasurer
 - 1 Outreach Coordinator
 - iii. A. Branin reported that there is an open seat on the Commission for a community member
 - c. Treasurer's Report — no report
 - d. Outreach Coordinator's Report — no report
- V. Reports of Special Committees
 - a. Momentum Building for the Commission / Actionable Goal Planning
 - i. A. Branin reported that SOGI (sexual orientation gender identity) training is being planned for the City's Human Resources department. The Community Health and Safety dept. (about 40 employees) will be contacted next.
 - ii. A. Branin reported LGBTQIA+ perception survey — not built into the budget. Connect with an organization, researcher or fundraiser. A. Branin suggested the Commission could work towards City budget support for a survey in 2026.

- iii. A. Branin reminded the Commission that a prior discussion on a community Town Hall suggested it be planned for the first quarter (Jan-Mar) of 2025. J. McClain offered True T as hosts for a Town Hall.
- A. Branin presented a draft logo.



Motion to adopt the draft logo for the City of Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission by G. Velazquez, second by L. Orbovich. **Adopted** by voice vote without objection.

Motion to approve using the Commission's new logo on a table cloth* by G. Velazquez, second by A. Gray. **Approved** by voice vote without objection.
(*Note: the table cloth is for identification when the Commission sets up a table at an event to engage with community and promote the work of the Commission.)

VI. Unfinished Business

a. HRC Municipality Quality Index

i. Gender-neutral single-stall bathroom

Motion: The LGBTQIA+ Commission recommends that a) all single use bathrooms in City of Pittsburgh facilities are identified as all gender, and b) the City through the appropriate City apparatus completes an inventory / study of the restroom facilities in all building so that the Commission is informed of what is available when someone needs a restroom. Second by CC Calhoun.

Approved by voice vote without objection.

- b. A. Branin reported that there are Fair Housing amendments proposed by City Council. One would change the language for families to be less about bloodlines and marriage and more about households. The second amendment would change zoning guidelines to allow nursing facilities that are not operating, but are functional could be re-purposed for stability housing for persons who are unhoused.

Possible commission statement in support of the housing amendments was drafted by A. Branin and will be forwarded to all Commissioners.

Motion to approve Fair Housing Amendments letter as amended to include "all races" where appropriate made by J. McClain, seconded by L. Orbovich. **Approved** by voice vote without objection.

Motion to give the Commission's Fair Housing Amendments letter to the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to translate into as many languages as the Office finds appropriate made by CC Calhoun, second by A. Gray. **Approved** by voice vote without objection.

VII. New Business

a. County Budget Meeting

S. Rosso reported there is a need to assure the social safety net is funded with the

proposed new county budget that includes county tax changes. Many programs/projects that assist the LGBTQIA+ community receive county funds. The budget vote that includes tax rate increases must happen by December 6, 2024. Resources will be shared regarding the issues to aid in communications on the issues.

- b. A. Branin met with Jeff Freedman of QBurgh.

Motion to approve Q-Burgh as a platform for LGBTQIA+ Commission information made by J. McClain, second by CC Calhoun. **Approved** by voice vote without objection.

- c. A. Branin reported that there is a Commission seat on the Gender Equity Commission designated for a member of the LGBTQIA+ Commission. The LGBTQIA+ Commission will need to determine how and who to recommend for the Gender Equity Commission.

VIII. Announcements

J. McClain announced the December 1 Worlds AIDS Day event sponsored by True T and the Jewish Health Foundation. All Commissioners have been RSVP's + 1.

A. Gray announced that tomorrow (November 20th) is Trans Day of Remembrance. Many events are happening including Sisters PGH in Swissvale at 6:00 pm.

A. Branin announced that Pittsburgh Magazine named Commissioner Donny Donovan as one of Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40 for 2024.

G. Velazquez announced that the Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation is having a home ownership and counseling session on December 10th and 12th in Spanish. If you know any LGBTQIA+ Latinos who may want to attend, to learn what it means to buy a house, and to get enrolled in a credit-building program to buy a house eventually, then let them know about this event.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

Approved on _____

Submitted by Billy Hileman