



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Community Initiatives · Service & Volunteerism · Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services · Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs
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Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022

6:00pm-8:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Joe Toolan, Chair
Joseph Clapsaddle, Vice Chair
Nicholas Augustine
Lee Blinder
Joan Bryan
Mickey Dhir

Kurt Doan
Debb Dunn
Anthony Fox
Jabari Lyles
Stephen Martin
Mark Ridderhoff

Commissioners Absent:

Sarcia Adkins
Margo Quinlan
Rowan Willis-Powell

Staff Present:

Steve McAdams, Executive Director - Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
Maureen Regan, Director of Communications - Governor's Coordinating Offices
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director - MD Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

- I. Meeting was called to Order by the Chair at 6:02pm. Housekeeping items were read by the Chair.
- II. Roll Call was made by the Chair and Commissioners were asked to share their pronouns.
- III. September 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Blinder made the motion to approve the Zoom recording as minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Fox. Motion carried with all in favor.
- IV. Remarks were made by Commission Chair, Joe Toolan. Chair Toolan noted the Commission attended several events during October which raised awareness of our work and thanked Commissioners for their dedication. Chair Toolan also noted that committees are getting up and running and expressed excitement about the upcoming Legislative Session in January 2023.

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100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

- V. Remarks were made by Administrative Director, Jeremy Browning, including administrative updates, acknowledgement of Transgender Awareness Month, and a tribute to the former Delegate Sheila Hixson.
 - VI. Remarks were made by Executive Director of GOCI, Steve McAdams. Director McAdams praised the work of the Commission and gave an update on the upcoming transition.
 - VII. Committee Reports:
 - A. Policy Committee: Commissioner Blinder provided updates:
 - 1. The Policy Committee voted unanimously to recommend the following policy priorities:
 - a) Trans Health Equity Act
 - b) Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act
 - c) Certificates of Birth - Issuance of New Certificates Sex Designation
 - 2. The Policy Committee voted unanimously to recommend the following changes to the legislation that created the Commission:
 - a) Change the name to the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs
 - b) Section 9.5-503
 - (1) Increase number of Commissioners to 20
 - (2) Add a student member to the Commission
 - (3) Add sexual orientation and socio economic status
 - (4) Add members should be reappointed on staggered terms
 - c) Section 9.5-507
 - (1) Remove "women"
 - d) Additional discussions included increasing the number of paid staff to support the commission
 - 3. Discussion ensued about changes to the legislation and it was noted a vote would occur under the "New Business" section of the meeting
 - 4. Director Browning noted that the Health Committee met, but does not have a report
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. Draft By-Laws:
 - 1. Director Browning noted that a Commissioner that was not able to attend the meeting requested to vote by proxy resulting in the following:

- a) Change to a the previous draft by-laws that would allow voting by proxy with approval from the commission by majority vote to allow proxy votes at a specific meeting
 - b) Discussion ensued regarding how to prevent Commissioners from not attend meetings and only voting by proxy
 - c) Proposed edit in Article 2, Section 6 would remove “There shall be no voting by proxy.” and replace it with “In special circumstances the Commission may vote to allow voting by proxy for a particular meeting or specific issue.” (It was noted that the commission should consider defining what constitutes “special circumstances” and establishing agreed upon procedures
 - d) Additional edits were made to update language in Article 2, Section 6 and Article 5, Section 1 to change “by telephone and conference call” to “virtually”
2. Vice Chair Clapsaddle made the motion to approve the edited draft by-laws as presented and noted edits and was seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Motion carried with all in favor.

IX. New Business:

A. Chair/Vice Chair Elections:

- 1. Vote to allow voting by proxy: Commissioner Blinder moved to allow voting by proxy in this election and was seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried with an abstention from Commissioner Lyles.
- 2. Open or closed (using an electronic form) election:
 - a) Commissioner Ridderhoff made a motion to hold a closed ballot and Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. A vote was called, but a question was raised about whether it would be a violation of the Open Meeting Act
 - b) Staff were unable to answer whether a closed or electronic vote would violate the Open Meetings Act so it was decided that the vote must be open and visible to all
 - c) Following the discussion, Commissioner Ridderhoff withdrew the motion
 - d) Commissioner Clapsaddle made a motion to hold an open election and was seconded by Commissioner Lyles. Motion carried with abstentions from Commissioner Dunn and Commissioner Bryan.
- 3. Officer Elections: Vice Chair Clapsaddle conducted the officer elections for Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2023. Candidates were given 2 minutes to make a statement followed by the vote.
 - a) Election for Chair:
 - (1) Votes for Lee Blinder - 2 votes
 - (2) Votes for Joe Toolan - 9 votes
 - (3) Abstention from Commissioner Lyles
 - b) Election for Vice Chair
 - (1) Votes for Kurt Doan - 3 votes
 - (2) Votes for Debb Dunn - 6 votes

- (3) Abstentions from Commissioner Blinder, Commissioner Lyles, and Chair Toolan
- c) Officer Election Results: Joe Toolan was re-elected as Chair and Debb Dunn elected as Vice Chair for calendar year 2023

B. Policy Recommendations:

- 1. Vice Chair Clapsaddle made the motion to adopt the Policy Committee recommendations below and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - a) Trans Health Equity Act - SB0682
 - b) Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act - SB0550
 - c) Certificates of Birth - Issuance of New Certificates of Sex Designation - HB0370
 - 2. Commission Legislation Recommended updates:
 - a) There was a lengthy discussion on updates to the legislation which was noted in real time as suggested changes to the legislation document, including the following:
 - b) Change the name to the from the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs to the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs throughout the document
 - c) Section 9.5-501
 - (1) Define LGBTQIA+ in the legislation (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender/Aromantic, and additional identities)
 - d) Section 9.5-503
 - (1) Increase number of Commissioners to 21
 - (2) Add a student member to the Commission
 - (3) Add sexual orientation, socio economic status, age - language needs further thought
 - (4) Add members should be reappointed on staggered terms
 - e) Section 9.5-507
 - (1) Remove "women"
 - f) Vice Chair Clapsaddle made a motion to send the legislation back to the Policy Committee to make final adjustments to the language and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.
- X. Open Forum for General Remarks or Comments: Time constraints caused this agenda item to be skipped.
- XI. Closing remarks from Chair Toolan. Time constraints caused this agenda item to be skipped.

- XII. Closing remarks from outgoing Vice Chair Clapsaddle: Vice Chair Clapsaddle extended gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair and is looking forward to serving on committee level.
- XIII. Motion was made by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director