



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2024

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Lee Blinder, Chair
Kijana West, Vice Chair
Nicholas Augustine
Joan Bryan
Josie Caballero
August Clayton
Mickey Dhir
Kurt Doan
Debb Dunn

Anthony Fox
Nicole Hollywood
Asher Kennedy
Jabari Lyles
Stephen Martin
Wendy Novak
Mark Ridderhoff
Sarah Stern
Joe Toolan

Commissioners Absent:

Tina Jones
M Pease
Paula Neira

GOCI Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director, Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Guests Present:

Krystal Quinlan, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Attorney General

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order by Chair Blinder at 6:03 PM. Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines were read and acknowledged. Additionally, meeting attendees were reminded to add their pronouns to their Zoom names and instructions were provided.
- II. Roll Call: Director Browning presented the new voting procedures using the Zoom reaction functions to indicate vote (green "check" to indicate "yea" and the red "X" to indicate "nay" and no action to abstain). Chair Blinder completed the roll call.

- III. Agenda Approval: Chair Blinder called for a vote to approve the agenda and the agenda was approved with all in favor.
- IV. Opening Remarks: Chair Blinder expressed gratitude for everyone's time and presence, discussed the upcoming kick-off of Pride Month, and acknowledged the challenging times for LGBTQIA+ communities.
- V. Opening Remarks: Vice Chair West expressed gratitude for the Commission for existing in these challenging times and plans to attend as many Pride events as possible, including the first-ever Garrett County Pride Festival.
- VI. Administrative updates were provided by Director Browning. Updates included:
 - A. 2023 Annual Report has been published and is available on the Commission's website.
 - B. The Strategic Planning committee is working on scheduling a half-day retreat for the Commission in August or September and will send out a questionnaire prior, maximizing the efficiency of our time together.
 - C. Symposium Update: The workgroup was not able to convene due to the demands of the legislative session and will be scheduled soon.
 - D. Final bill signing ceremony will be held on May 16, 2024 and is open to the public.
 - E. Reminder for next Commission meeting on July 8, 2024 at 6:00pm.
 - F. Commissioners were reminded of the legislative mandates that guide the work of the Commission.
- VII. Approval of March 11, 2024 meeting Minutes: Commissioner Caballero made a motion to approve the amended minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.
- VIII. Briefing: HIV Funding Reduction: Chair Blinder gave an overview of the issue and presented a draft statement prepared by Health & Wellness Committee Chair, Commissioner Dhir, along with other Commissioners, and input from community members.
 - A. Following a discussion on the statement and some adjustments, Commissioner Lyles made a motion to adopt the statement and was seconded by Commissioner Fox. Discussion followed regarding the need to amend or withdraw the motion by leave of the body to edit the statement further. Chair Blinder called for a vote to withdraw the motion and the motion was withdrawn with all in favor.
 - B. Additional edits were made to the statement and Commissioner Caballero made a motion to adopt the final document to address the HIV Funding Crisis and was seconded by Commissioner Doan. Motion carried with all in favor.
- IX. Approval: Two Spirit and Queer Indigenous Inclusion Statement: There was discussion on other considerations, including land tax, and consultation with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Additional discussion and questions were raised on how this statement relates to the work of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs. Director Browning provided additional background information on how the workgroup and statement came to be, including drawing on examples from the Washington State Commission on LGBTQ Affairs and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Further discussion is needed on how the Commission communicates values, priorities, process for making statements, where does the statement go, and

how it guides the work. Commissioner Caballero made a motion to delay approval and was seconded by Commissioner Neira. Motion carried with abstentions from Commissioners Clayton, Dhir, Stern, and Toolan.

- X. Approval: Procedure for Bill Amendments: Chair Blinder presented the draft procedure for bill amendments and suggested that further amendments are needed before approval. Following a discussion, Policy Committee Chair, Commissioner Caballero made a motion to delay approval and was seconded by Vice Chair West. Motion carried with all in favor.
- XI. Review: Updates to Bylaws: Director Browning provided an overview of the proposed edits to the Bylaws and requested final feedback by May 31, 2024 in order to incorporate suggestions and share the final amendment version 30 days prior to the July 8, 2024 Commission meeting.
- XII. Review: Pride Month Events: Chair Blinder gave an overview of the upcoming events and Director Browning shared the calendar of events and requested Commissioners help keep up-to-date by sharing additional events and information to be added. Additionally, Commissioners were invited to participate in events on behalf of the Commission.
- XIII. Open Forum for General Remarks or Comments:
 - A. Commissioner Bryan requested more information on Garrett County Pride and Vice Chair Kijana West provided the date on June 15, 2024 and location in Mountain Lake Park.
 - B. Commissioner Lyles shared that Baltimore Trans Pride is scheduled for June 29, 2024 with a parade at 1pm and block party from 3-10pm along Charles Street.
 - C. Commissioner Clayton reflected on the values alignment conversations during the meeting and noted the critical importance of action beyond the Commission.
- XIV. Closing Remarks: Chair Blinder noted appreciation for the time and attention folks bring to meetings, caring for each other, caring for how we do the work and the commitment to the personal and collective integrity of the Commission. Chair Blinder also expressed hopes to meet with everyone one-on-one and encouraged commissioners to build relationships with one another.
- XV. Adjournment: Chair Blinder adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Director, Jeremy Browning