

Office of Equity & Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2023

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Department
2. Aloma Bouma (Chair) – National Federation of the Blind
3. Brenda P. Haynes – Community – Mount Pleasant
4. C. Maria Stokes – Enoch Pratt Free Library
5. Crystal Bright – Office of Emergency Management
6. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
7. Janice Jackson – Commissioner - Consumer Advocate
8. JB Begue – Baltimore City Association of the Deaf
9. Keina Overton – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
10. Laetitia Griffin – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
11. Martin French – Baltimore City Planning Department
12. Rochelle Purnell – Baltimore City Health Department
13. Yojinde Paxton – Baltimore City Public Schools

Guests

14. KL Morgan – ASL Interpreter
15. Valerie Kline – ASL Interpreter

Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:

16. Danielle Burton – Supervisor (Community Relations Commission)
17. Hugh Scoggins – Program Compliance Officer
18. Lisa Kelly – Chief of Investigations

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Aloma Bouma at 1:05 pm.
- b. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Opening Remarks

- a. Opening remarks were given by Chairperson Aloma Bouma.
- b. Attendees were asked to please be patient with numerous emails and documents.
- c. The Agenda includes voting on the handbook, but will not be completed today.
- d. Chairperson Aloma asked everyone to please call her Aloma without the title.
- e. Please send your comments within the body of the emails rather than in attachments. Please use brackets or quotes in place of highlights.
- f. Please say your name when you want to speak.

III. Director's Report

- a. The Director's report was given by Chief Lisa Kelly.
 - i. OECR celebrated Black History Month by highlighting the achievements of African Americans and delivering black history facts each day via email and social media.
 - ii. Director Moore facilitated *Community Conversations: Cannabis (in)equity and Reparations* at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. – February 16, 2023
- b. Administrative updates
 - i. OECR hired three new employees:
 - 1. Akeem Kirk, Fiscal Officer
 - 2. Andrea Pineda, CRC Investigator
 - 3. Brandon Wafford, Equity Analyst
 - ii. OECR encourages members of MCD to meet once subcommittees have been assigned. "whentomeet.com" is a great resource to coordinate subcommittee meetings.
 - iii. Members and staff are working with the Baltimore City Information & Technology department to create a "SharePoint" site for the Commission.
- c. The following meetings are listed below:
 - i. April 26, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - ii. May 24, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iii. June 28, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iv. September 27, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - v. October 25, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - vi. November 22, 2023, 1:00 pm
- d. Legislative updates
 - i. 2023 Maryland General Assembly is in session.
 - ii. OECR assisted in providing support letters on behalf of the Commission regarding HB264/SB400: *Places of Public Accommodations Motion Picture House Close Captioning*.

IV. Approval of the minutes

- a. The January 25, 2022 minutes were approved.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- a. Chairperson Aloma Bouma would like Commissioners' feedback on in-person meetings and use the League for People with Disabilities.
 - i. David Greenberg spoke about the parking lot being unavailable until September 2023 at the League and suggested other places to meet.
 - ii. Commissioners weighed in on the in-person and hybrid meetings.

- iii. Chief Lisa Kelly stated that there is an option on the 17th floor of the 7 East Redwood Street building for hybrid capabilities.
- iv. Commissioners agreed to table in-person meetings until September 2023.
- b. Chairperson Aloma Bouma requested feedback on the language and terminology on the use of names within the Commission.
 - i. 1) MCD, 2) Commissioners, and 3) members.
 - ii. Commissioners agreed that the names can be used interchangeably.
- c. Chairperson Aloma Bouma thanked JB Begue for initiating a set-up for a shared folder for documents and postings as it is currently in progress.
 - i. JB Begue clarified what items should be in the shared folder.
 - 1. Minutes, member names, and commission resources
 - 2. JB Begue is happy to upload documents if needed.
 - ii. Chair Aloma Bouma welcomed feedback from all Commissioners on the shared folder.
 - 1. Mr. Hugh Scoggins would like to be the liaison between MCD and the BCIT department.
 - 2. Chair Bouma suggested that a small committee work together on the shared folder.

VI. Commission Subcommittees Discussion

- a. Mr. Hugh Scoggins gave the list of committees, and Commissioners decided on which committees to keep and which to remove. They agreed to keep the following:
 - i. Education
 - ii. Health/Mental Health
 - iii. Commission Development
 - iv. Employment
 - v. Emergency preparedness (on hold for further discussion)
 - vi. Transportation
 - vii. Legislative

VII. Open forum

No discussion

V. Closing

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2023, via Zoom.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 pm.

MCD Public Session Minutes

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Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond

Special Assistant

Office of Equity and Civil Rights