



**Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Committee Meeting
March 2, 2023
Hybrid Meeting
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:30pm**

Click [HERE](#) to access rebroadcasts of past Human Rights Commission meetings on YouTube.

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1. WELCOME

- a. CALL TO ORDER
 - i. Housing Committee Chair, Wolfgang Keppley, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
 - i. Wolfgang Keppley
 - ii. Mary Bauer
 - iii. Ernest Chambers (arrives ~6:53pm)
- c. MISSION (recited by all): *Act as a strong advocate to justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights.*

2. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

3. MINUTES

- a. Review of minutes from 02/02/2023
 - i. Commissioners choose to postpone approval of minutes to 03/16/23 meeting due to only one Commissioner being present who attended the 02/02/23 meeting

4. WORK SESSION

- a. Community Engagement Committee
 - i. No members present; does not meet
- b. Housing
 - i. Review draft letter to Council regarding housing budget priorities
 - 1. Committee Chair would like to make adjustments, as well as add substantive edits as a committee
 - a. Would like to incorporate notes from meeting with Alex Ikefuna and have it ready before the next meeting
 - b. **Commissioner will add feedback to letter tomorrow**
 - c. Could suggest some organizations or initiatives to which Council should direct funds (or at least not stop funding)
 - 2. Commissioner asks whether letter should include points about housing not related to budget priorities

- a. Can send HRC Chair housing-related issues that Commissioner would like to bring up for during the Annual Retreat
 - ii. Scheduling one-on-one meetings with City staff and other experts
 - 1. Brainstorming individuals who would be good on a panel or town hall-style meeting with the Commission that could connect with the public
 - 2. Committee Chair will resend the contact sheet
 - a. Suggests setting up at least one meeting between the 03/16 retreat and the next sub-committee meeting (since the retreat may alter the trajectory of priorities)
 - 3. Commissioner asks which communication methods work best for the committee
 - a. Email works, and text reminders help
 - iii. Compiling a resource list to build knowledge base
 - 1. HRC Director says it would be helpful to have a central location to store notes and knowledge as the Commission learns more from the community
 - 2. Commissioner suggests using OneDrive space more effectively and asks whether there is a more helpful alternative
 - a. Teams is capable of group work and features space to store files
 - i. An HRC Teams Drive already exists
 - b. Commissioners may require some kind of Teams orientation if they have no experience with the platform
 - 3. Commissioner Chair will set up a Housing committee channel in Teams, and HRC Director will make necessary alterations to the Team Drive
 - 4. Brainstorming project management options
 - a. Planner is recommended by IT
 - b. Asana is used by one Commissioner, but it costs money
 - c. There are various options to look into for project management purposes
 - iv. Commissioner asks whether other Commissioners went to Livable Cville zoning event which occurred at various locations the previous week
 - 1. Other Commissioners did not attend
 - 2. HRC Community Outreach Specialist says there will likely be another event in March
 - 3. Commissioners acknowledge that it can be difficult to prioritize and keep up with the work of so many different organizations and competing issues in the City
 - 4. Committee Chair asks Commissioner what is needed to draft letter to Council about re-zoning plans
 - a. Whole Commission would have to agree they want to do it
 - b. Would like to look at Livable Cville's letter about the same topic first, but Mary can draft a letter if the Commission decides they would like to send a letter during the retreat

- c. Mary can find other letters to reference and think about the first draft of the letter
- v. HRC Director adds that some housing-related news is that CRHA is currently translating the housing choice voucher application into different languages, like Swahili

5. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

6. NEXT STEPS

- a. All Housing committee members
 - i. Send HRC Chair policy suggestions for discussion during Annual Retreat
 - ii. Set up meeting between 03/16 retreat and next sub-committee meeting with someone from the list of potential individuals for a panel
- b. Wolfgang
 - i. Set up Housing committee channel in Teams
- c. Mary
 - i. Add feedback to letter to Council
 - ii. Look for other organizations' letters to reference in a letter to Council about zoning
- d. Todd
 - i. Make necessary updates to HRC Teams platform

7. ADJOURN

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm