Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Scott Markow called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Scott Markow, (Chair), Bianca Chang (Vice Chair), Mabrooka Chaudhry, Kui Zhao, Gabriel Terrasa, Peter Hwang, Joan Hash, Tiffany Releford, Jonah Hornum, Bob Ford

**Absent:** Sahara Ukaegbu (Student Commissioner), Lynda Earle

**Staff Present:** Wanda Cao

**Legal Counsel:** Melissa Goldmeier

I. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Nobody from the public is present.

II. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 and SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MINUTES**

Scott asked if anyone had any other changes. Gab moved to approve 9/14 minutes. Mabrooka 2nds. All in favor. Motion passes. Joan moved to approve 9/23 minutes. Peter 2nds. All in favor. Motion passes. Both minutes passes.

IV. **CHAIR’S REPORT**

Scott thanks the Awards Committee for the ceremony. It looked fantastic. Lynda, Gab and Bianca did fabulous job. OHRE staff did great too. Scott stated it looked like a great venue and that maybe we can look at it next year. Scott attended the Pride Festival with Marla, Miriam, Mabrooka and Bianca. It was a nice event and very spaced out.

Last month we had visitors from Native Americans regarding surveys. We asked them to send us more information about that survey but have not received any information yet. It is not too early to plan for our retreat in January. Scott is looking to be on the Retreat Committee with him to start helping to plan the retreat. Will it be online, or in person, where the venue, and the agenda? Scott stated to try to aim for late January or late February.

Elections are coming up, if anyone is interested in running or nominating start thinking about that. We have 2 pre-hearing conferences coming up on the 10/28 and 11/10. Scott distributed the information that Melissa had given him to everyone. Any questions, please contact Melissa. We have Tiffany and Jonah that are not assigned to panels, and I want to check to see if any of them want to join a pre-hearing. It would be great experience for the new commissioners. It is scheduled to be in person meetings. The panel for the 28th is having second thoughts about it being in-person, so we will meet and discuss that.
V. **STUDENT REPORT**
Sahara was unable to attend and will send the commission a written report when she feels better.

VI. **WORKGROUPS**
   a. **LA ALIANZA LATINA:**
   Gab reported that the Workgroup is continuing to prepare the report and recommendations for the County Executive. That is the only development.

   b. **AAPI**
   Mabrooka was unable to attend last week when AAPI met. Their committee did a survey and based on the need of the county is to have a dedicated liaison to act like a bridge to the AAPI community to the county resources. Bianca asked if the survey has been completed. Mabrooka stated that it has been completed. Bianca asked if it is published. Mabrooka stated that that has not been established yet and is not sure how the county executive wants to publish it from the Health, Wellness, and Safety committee. Mabrooka will send out the survey results to the HRC. Scott asked maybe we can post on the OHRE website. Mabrooka said she will talk to the committee and see.

VII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   a. **Awards Committee:**
   Lynda was unable to attend tonight. Gab stated that the Committee will be reviewing what was done this year so that lessons learned can be applied for next year. Gab thanked all the commissioners on their participation and assisting with the event. Bianca stated to clean up every little trash was very tedious, but maybe we can chip in and hire someone to do it next time will be helpful. Bianca stated that any feedback is welcome. Joan stated they did an outstanding job.

   b. **Legislative Committee:**
   Scott did send out a committee report, but there is no legislation that came up. The only thing is that county will allow commissions to continue to meet virtually.

   c. **Nominations Committee:**
   Peter stated no update today.

   d. **Outreach:**
   Mabrooka was unable to send a report yet. She stated she did attend the Pride Event and it was great. Mabrooka met with Sahara and met for an hour and talked about her project and gave her ideas moving forward.

   She was able to attend a panelist discussion about Asian Youth Mental Health. Kui thanked Mabrooka and stated that the first part was a documentary film about mental health, and the second part was a panelist discussion regarding suicide prevention. This was funded by Horizon Foundation. Mabrooka did share the AAPI survey to the community during the event. Kui thanked Mabrooka for sharing that.
IX. ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Immigration
Joan stated that the County Executive supports our recommendation that immigration status be added to the county code and the Office of Law in conjunction with OHRE is identifying all of the code changes which need to be made to implement the recommendation. They have not yet completed this work. Joan stated that they have also been assigned a designated contact person, Angela Cabellon, for any questions we may have regarding this effort. She has promised to provide an update for the November meeting.

b. Social and Economic Justice:
Kui doesn’t have much to report. She tried to contact the Governor’s Office from the Native American Commission for our monthly heritage month, but no one has responded yet. She will contact another channel, the Director for the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to secure a presenter for the November meeting. Kui mentioned that Joan’s husband also helped cleaning after the awards ceremony. In addition, Kui reported that she contacted the County Department of Planning and Zoning who informed her the reported County has solved the issue by adding the American Indian and Alaska Native to a county government conducted survey. Scott asked if the county government has a standardized list for surveys to residents. Kui suggested using the U.S. Census Bureau’s that is official. She also recommended the Commission to speak with Yolanda or Angela Cabellon for insights.

c. Hate Crimes:
Mabrooka stated unable to meet last week but will continue to do their work. She had nothing to report this time. Scott asked Mabrooka about former student commissioner, Jonathan’s, revisions of his report regarding hate bias incidents in the schools. Scott stated Jonathan worked really hard on that report and we don’t want to forget about it. Mabrooka said that the committee is continuing with Jonathan’s work.

X. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
Jonah wanted to talk about a possible Townhall with the HCPD regarding Hate Bias incidents in Howard County. This will be for awareness purposes. Scott stated Mabrooka gets reports for the HBI, who gets them from Yolanda, who receives them from the HCPD. Scott asked if we wanted a policeman to join one of our meetings as a Speaker regarding HBIs. Jonah stated he believes it’ll be beneficial. Scott suggested that we can have a representative from the HCPD. Kui recommended Ofc. Stella Dieu and maybe she can attend. Kui is also the new board member for the Howard County Conservancy.

XI. CLOSED SESSION
Scott said we have to move to close session to discuss HRC Case 21-09-09 (OHRE CASE 21-05-014). Joan moved meeting be closed to discuss case and consulting legal counsel. Kui 2nds. Scott went around to everyone individually and they all voted Yes. Motion passed. Wanda stopped recording and handed over host duties to Scott.

Open session ended at 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7pm