

LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Monday, May 12, 2025

6:30 p.m., Virtual Microsoft Teams

*In attendance:*

*Samantha Perez, Liz Erion, Tom Villa, Kaitlyn Goyal, Laura Tinter, Sam Barnes, Maureen Coffey, Elizabeth Matlock, Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Jennifer Weber, Luis Marcano, Paul Battaglia, Lizzi Alarcon, Candice Lopez, Diane Kresh, Kimberly Baldini, Charles McCullough, Kellen MacBeth*

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2025 Meeting – *Laura Tinter moved, Candice Lopez seconded, all approved.*
- III. Public Comment
  - a. *Kellen MacBeth provided an update on the work of Equality Arlington. The advocacy group has been working for a County Board resolution in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. The group has also been working with the County to support the WorldPride festivities. The group has urged the County to step up enforcement for civil rights and to support HIV prevention and treatment, especially in light of the current administration. Finally, he encouraged the Committee to continue to advocate and to serve as a facilitator to plan future Pride Month planning.*
  - b. *Charles McCullough spoke to highlight the importance of accessibility through affordability during Pride Month and asked for events to be promoted more broadly earlier. He encouraged the group to form subcommittees to support policy/equity, health/safety/wellness, and visibility/culture.*
- IV. Update: WorldPride 2025
  - a. *Cynthia Liccese-Torres, the Arlington County Race & Equity Program Manager, detailed the County's plans for WorldPride. There are two major events in the upcoming weekend of May 16-18. The County is planning a light projection from Bell Visuals on the Bozman Government Center. There will be a Pride Block Party on Saturday night, including a DJ, food from Couthaus Social, games, and swag. The rain date for the party is May 31. The County is also painting two murals designed by Lisa Marie Studios, painted with County staff volunteers, outside of the Bozman Government Center. The County is also planning additional activations in the mural space during Pride month, including a chance to meet the artist at a lunch. The County is hanging Progress flags at all County facilities. The County is also working to create collages to highlight local figures in the Pride movement. Staff seek recommendations on who should be included in these displays. Current figures include Dr. Lilli Vincenz and Jay Fisette.*

- i. Sam Barnes recommended included Freddie Lutz.*
- ii. Samantha recommended reaching out to advocacy organizations.*
- iii. Candice Lopez recommended reaching out to the Police LGBTQ task force.*
- iv. Diane Kresh recommended Bob Witeck of Witeck Communications.*
- v. Tom Villa asked if this was planned to be a permanent installation. Cynthia highlighted that this was to serve as a teachable moment during Pride Month, with a set of posters at each County building. While the physical display might be temporary, the information may be shared more permanently online. Tom noted that we should reach out to faith, military, and healthcare communities.*
- vi. Maureen Coffey noted that this is buildable, and we can add to the history over time and use it to celebrate Pride in perpetuity.*

- V. Discussion: Does the committee want to form subcommittees? If so, what focus areas would make the most sense for subcommittees?
- a. Samantha Perez began with a recommendation to include subcommittees on topics to bring recommendations to the County and to serve as go-to resources when a need arises. To begin, the group could have a policy-related subcommittee to draft a resolution in support of the County's resolution.*
  - b. Kaitlyn supported the formation of subcommittees and expressed an interest in serving on a policy-related subcommittee.*
  - c. Maureen expressed that a committee to support policy and resolutions would be helpful, not just for the proclamations, but to support the actualizing of the high-level policy, ensuring that all policy reflects a commitment to support the LGBTQIA+ community.*
  - d. Kellen MacBeth supported Maureen's thoughts, highlighting the committee's role in coming up with next steps after the Board's resolution.*
  - e. Samantha Perez noted three areas in the Committee charter that could serve as subcommittees – business, legal/human rights, and health*
  - f. Liz Erion supported the subcommittees laid out by Charles McCullough during public comment.*
  - g. Laura Tinter noted that the three laid out by Charles McCullough did not include a business component.*
  - h. Tom Villa noted that Charles McCullough combined health and safety and supported the formation of four committees – those laid out in public comment and one on business.*
  - i. Diane Kresh volunteered to participate in the culture subcommittee to support the expansion of activities and inclusivity.*
  - j. Sam Barnes asked which subcommittee nonprofit partnerships would fall under. Samantha Perez responded that it would likely depend on the work of the nonprofit.*
  - k. Tom Villa proposed expanding business and development to business and community development.*
  - l. Kimberly Baldini supported Tom Villa's suggestion, noting that relationship-building would be important, especially in planning future programming.*

- m. Diane Kresh noted that many subcommittees take many people, so three or four should be the maximum to focus on actualizing the County's resolution.
- n. Kaitlyn Goyal suggested that visibility and culture could be combine with other topics. Samantha Perez suggested overlap with visibility/culture and business/development. Sam Barnes agreed. The group discussed the wording of this combined group.
- o. The group concluded with the following subcommittees, based on the framework laid out by Charles McCullough:
  - i. **Policy & Equity:** Focus - local and state legislation, push for inclusive policies, elevating marginalized LGBTQIA+ communities.
    - 1. Kaitlyn Goyal and Laura Tinter will serve on this subcommittee.
  - ii. **Health, Safety & Wellness:** Focus - mental health access, STI prevention, gender-affirming care, housing stability, and responses to anti-LGBTQ+ hate.
    - 1. Candice Lopez and Luis Marcano will serve on this subcommittee.
  - iii. **Culture and Community Development:** Focus - Pride month activites, supporting culture queer art, history, and storytelling year-round (etc.)
    - 1. Diane Kresh, Tom Villa, and Kimberly Baldini will serve on this subcommittee.
- p. Samantha Perez introduced the motion to establish these subcommittees. Laura Tinter moved, Tom Villa seconded. All approved.
- q. Each subcommittee will write a charge on what the subcommittee's purpose is, what the current state is, and a few goals.
- r. Diane Kresh recommended reaching out to the OUTstanding Employee Resource Group for subcommittee members.

VI. Other Business (as needed)

- a. Elizabeth Matlock shared the opportunity to speak at a Columbia Pike Partnership event on May 28. Sam Barnes expressed interest, and Tom Villa asked for additional information.
- b. Samantha Perez shared a message from Committee member James Fisher which spoke of commentary from former County Board member Libby Garvey on anticipated harm stemming from Trump administration policy.

VII. Meeting Wrap-Up – Diane Kresh moved to adjourn. Kaitlyn Goyal seconded. All approved.