

## Quick recap

The meeting began with administrative updates regarding attendance concerns and the introduction of new project presenters from the Nimble Project team. The main focus was on a natural hair care education initiative for Black girls, including plans for product distribution and workshops in schools, followed by discussions about supporting young girls with natural hair and addressing related policy issues. The conversation ended with updates on various commission activities including collaboration opportunities with LGBTQ+ organizations, strategies for improved inter-board communication, and plans for upcoming events and reappointments.

## Next steps

- [Kionne to send email to BOPA requesting a meeting, with all commissioners copied.](#)
- [Kionne to send recap email of the meeting before the weekend.](#)
- [Kionne to schedule one-on-one meetings with commissioners starting next week.](#)
- [Ana to send email to organize State of the Room planning meeting.](#)
- [Jill to arrange for Women's Commission swag items, brochures, and t-shirts.](#)
- [Gab to share the Google Calendar URL for the shared event calendar.](#)
- [Commissioners to fill out the reappointment application by June 25th.](#)
- [Jill to invite ex-officio members to the June 25th meeting.](#)
- [Commissioners to prepare for the June 25th "level set" meeting.](#)
- [Kionne and Jill to work on inviting ex-officio members to meetings and improving communication with them.](#)
- [Rachel to include the shared event calendar information in next month's updates.](#)

## Summary

### Enhancing Meeting Attendance and Engagement

The meeting began with Jill announcing her dual role as a background supporter and co-host, entrusting Robin with hosting duties. Kionne expressed concern over low attendance and emphasized the need for better participation, particularly ahead of the June reappointment deadline. The meeting welcomed guests from the Nimble Project, who presented their slideshow, introducing team members including Sian Shifera and Nahomy. Jill noted her intention to join later for the director's support and staff update, and the conversation ended with a reminder of the importance of improving meeting attendance and note-taking processes.

## Natural Hair Care Education Initiative

The team discussed their mission to provide free natural hair care education and products for Black girls, addressing issues like chronic school absenteeism and lack of representation in hair policies. They outlined solutions including school-based health workshops and free natural hair kits containing essential products, with goals to create 250 kits and host workshops in 10 schools or youth organizations. The project timeline includes distributing 40 kits to the Youth Empowerment Society, promoting the initiative at community events, and hosting a back-to-school event in August, with plans to continue workshops throughout the school year.

## Supporting Young Girls With Natural Hair

The meeting focused on a presentation about a project aimed at supporting young girls with natural hair, addressing confidence, bullying, and policy issues. Naomi and Tsion shared details about the project, including ways to support it through donations, connections, and amplifying its message. Kionne expressed admiration for the initiative and offered support from the commission, including connecting the project with resources and events. The conversation ended with the approval of previous meeting minutes and a brief update on staff changes, including the potential addition of an HBCU fellow to help identify grant funding.

## Community Rights and Advocacy Updates

Jill reported on several key developments, including the successful feedback provided on two City Council bills regarding menstrual products and maternal health, and a recent federal ruling impacting transgender discrimination protections. She announced plans for a collaborative event with the LGBTQIA office and Community Relations Commission to educate the community about anti-discrimination measures in Baltimore City. Jill also highlighted concerns raised at taxpayer night about immigration enforcement, the rollback of the Violence Against Women Act, and environmental impacts on immigrant communities in Curtis Bay and Brooklyn. The Commission is preparing for budget hearings and will attend an immigration summit at Coppin University.

## LGBTQ+ Government Collaboration Planning

Jill and Gab discussed collaboration opportunities between LGBTQ+ organizations and city government offices, particularly regarding an upcoming event. Jill explained that while the LGBTQ+ Affairs office and the Office of Equity and Civil Rights have different mandates (with the former focusing on community needs and the latter on enforcement), there is potential for greater coordination. They agreed to connect further to develop a game plan for coalition building and unified action against legislation threatening LGBTQ+ rights.

## Enhancing City Commission Collaboration

The Women's Commission discussed strategies for improved collaboration with other city boards and commissions, emphasizing the need to avoid duplicative work and ensure aligned messaging. Jill suggested designating a liaison to foster communication and coordination, while Kionne proposed a tiered approach to engage commissions with overlapping interests. The group also considered organizing a social or networking event to strengthen relationships. Additionally, Kionne reported positive feedback from Christopher Burnett on a legislative document layout, which aligns with efforts to connect boards and commissions with the city's legislative agenda.

## Commission Meeting Updates and Deadlines

The meeting covered several key updates and discussions. Kionne reported that a hearing was postponed and shared details about a new culture committee to address soft skills and accountability. She also mentioned an internal deadline of June 25th for reappointments and encouraged members to complete a scheduling form for one-on-one meetings. The group discussed attendance expectations, noting that unexcused absences or lack of communication about missed meetings could lead to removal from the commission. Casey raised concerns about attending the next in-person meeting on January 25th due to a conflicting annual board dinner, and the group explored options for meeting locations. Ana expressed interest in organizing a "state of the room" meeting by the end of summer, and Casey noted that no response had been received from Bopa regarding a previous meeting.

## Artscape Feedback and Community Engagement

The commission discussed their previous motion to engage with BOPA regarding Artscape feedback and artist selection, with Rachel noting that while the motion was approved, there was no designated point of contact to follow through. Kionne acknowledged the complexity of the situation, including tensions between BOPA and the traditional artist community, and suggested that any communication with BOPA should come from them rather than the commission. The group agreed that while they should follow through with the process of reaching out to BOPA, they might need to consider alternative approaches to gathering community feedback, with Ana suggesting a listening session at City Hall.

## Women's Commission Planning and Updates

The meeting focused on several key updates and decisions. Kionne discussed plans for women's commission swag items, reprinted brochures, and t-shirts, as well as an upcoming ad hoc planning session to discuss the remainder of the year's activities. Gab reminded the group

about the existing Google Calendar for events and offered to share the URL. Rachel reported that the email approval for City Council feedback on Council Bill 2505-1 and 2505-2 received 10 affirmative votes, achieving the required quorum. Kionne concluded by thanking everyone for their time and commitment, and mentioned she would send an email for Bopa and a recap email before the weekend.