

# Student/Community Relations Commission Minutes

Friday, August 28, 2020 at 3:00 PM

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## 1 Call to Order & Location

Hess called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM in a Zoom Webinar streamed on YouTube Live.

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## 2 Attendance

### 2.1 Members in attendance

Dr. Matt Arbuckle, Sidra Capriolo, Prue Dana, Zoe Douglas, Glenn Ellerbe, Lt. Lara Fening, Kyndal Fletcher, Lena Giang, Chair Megan Hess, Emma Jewell, Amy Macechko, Jennifer Marston, Molly McNamara, Cathy McVey, Steve Schnabl, Megan Schoettler, Jonathan Shirley, Joy Usner, Dr. Scott Walter, Josephine Webb, and Andrew Wilson.

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## 3 Approval of Agenda

Hess asked for a vote to approve the agenda.

✓ **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

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## 4 Approval of May 22, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve by Ellerbe, seconded by Dana. Unanimous approval.

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## 5 Reports

### 5.1 OPD

Lt. Fening talked about the challenges of the new academic year but mentioned that alcohol violations are down. Many litter and a few noise violations. In recent days there had been some bike thefts. The officers are spending a lot of time educating the students on the mask and large gathering ordinances.

### 5.2 MUPD

Sgt. Rosenberger relayed information through Lt. Fening due to technical problems. The MUPD is monitoring quarantined individuals, and assisting the OPD with gathering information and educating students about masks and large gathering restrictions.

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## 6 Old Business

None

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## 7 New Business

### 7.1 Goals

#### 7.1.1 Supporting Local Businesses

Hess talked about supporting locally owned businesses. Dana agreed and said this is a great goal, and added that the Chamber and Enjoy Oxford have resources to help. Schnabl talked about the need for students to use off-campus businesses and suggested the Chamber develop a bingo game or passport to off-campus businesses. Arbuckle suggested a coupon book focused on students. Ellerbe contrasted Schnabl's idea with the Donut Trail passport<sup>1</sup>. Marston mentioned that the Chamber is already working on a marketing strategy, including a new website. Douglas talked about the lack of student awareness of their economic impact on Oxford and mentioned how students are not likely to visit websites and rely on social media to receive information that pops up there.

Hess advised that students are more likely to follow the Student Government social media rather than the City of Oxford. Ellerbe suggested reaching out to Jessica Greene to talk about collaborating messaging to students. Capriolo mentioned that business passports should apply to delivery orders as well, in an effort to maintain distance and encourage safety. Marston wondered if a passport program could be electronic. McNamara said that business gift cards could be a good gift from families of students, and suggested a student takeover of a prominent social media account, visiting several businesses in a single day. Douglas suggested posting information on Parents social media pages and groups. Jewell suggested this could be an alternative to care packages. Ellerbe wondered if Miami University would block social media initiatives that compete with on-campus stores. Fening and Walter suggested that posting from a Miami parent may be the best with parent social media pages. Hess asked Jewell about commuter students. Jewell advised that most commuters are avoiding Oxford and chose the remote option, but that she will add information to Canvas and send out an announcement about supporting the businesses. Hess, McNamara, and Schnabl discussed ordering food in bulk, with catering options, and the need to educate students on this availability. Douglas and Fletcher discussed on-campus student gatherings and the requirement of going through university catering. Shirley appreciated the efforts of businesses to reach out to students and provide study tables but cautioned the commission against encouraging large gatherings and causing COVID-19 to spread.

#### 7.1.2 COVID-19 Education

Hess gave an update on cases on the Oxford campus and how the university is responding. Walter mentioned that he would be talking with fraternity presidents and how to contain hotspots. Schnabl highlighted a Facebook post from Mayor Mike Smith encouraging people on High Street to wear masks when they are outside. Schnabl, Marston, and Walter discussed the restaurant party limit of 10 guests. Hess encouraged SCRC members to share information through their respective social media channels. Douglas said that students are aware of the face covering requirement and large gathering ordinances but they are choosing to not follow them and advised that new approaches need to be made. Ellerbe talked about the increasing, intentionally disrespectful behavior among students and how they are choosing to be unsafe in Oxford. Ellerbe continued with how the student behavior affects the residents and businesses and ultimately puts community members at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Hess asked the student commission members why off-campus students are not following the guidelines. Shirley offered that students are aware of the very low fatality rate among students and they are generally not aware of the risk they take to Kroger or when they are in public in dealing with non-students. Hess

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gettothebc.com/donut-trail>

suggested that the City needs residents to reach out to the students and say why they need students to follow guidelines. Schnabl offered that there are examples of non-students not following guidelines.

### **7.1.3 Other Discussion Topics**

Capriolo talked about students wanting sustainability and recycling containers in Uptown Oxford. Dana added that the League of Women Voters is also working on sustainability. Douglas mentioned that Uptown Oxford lacks accessibility for disabled students and residents. Douglas gave an example of menus not being available in accessible formats, and that accessibility can help attract more people to Uptown. Ellerbe offered that the Business Improvement District can assist with sustainability efforts and that the SCRC should reach out to the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC).

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## **8 Announcements**

Dana mentioned that the League of Women Voters will be meeting virtually on Monday, August 31 and will have a presentation from the Police Community Relations & Review Commission, as well as a panel, to discuss policing in Oxford. Oxford Police Chief Jones will be joining the meeting.

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## **9 Adjournment**

✓ **Vote:** Motion to adjourn by Schnabl, seconded by Schoettler. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.