

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2026 | 4 pm

Members Present

Jason Sayat, Chair	Eric Hutchison, Vice Chair	Elaine Alicea
Megan Potts	Joanne Strasser (remote)	Monica Lee
Deborah Carvalho (remote)	Sumia Mohamed (remote)	

City Staff & Others Present

Emma Speight, Community Affairs Director	Nic Fortkamp, City Council	Jen Faure, Upper Arlington Library
Kayla Toon, Upper Arlington Library		

1. Welcome

A motion was made to excuse Brent Theaker’s absence at the April 23, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Megan *Second:* Deborah *Motion Approved*

2. Approval of February 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes (attached)

Motion: Eric *Second:* Elaine *Minutes Approved*

3. City & Affiliate Organization Updates

- **Arbor Day Ceremony** – This year’s ceremony was held April 23 at Sunny 95 Park, with Greensview students helping to plant four native Chinquapin Oak trees that will become part of a grove of 17 trees to commemorate Ohio’s place as the 17th State to join the Union in 1803, as part of UA’s America 250-Ohio celebrations.
- **Spring Fling** – this year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 11 am-3 pm. At the start of the event, there will be a History Trail dedication for new signs about the origins of the Amelita Mirolo Barn, as part of UA’s America 250-Ohio celebrations.
- **Master Plan Update** – a steering committee of resident volunteers has met for the first time to help guide the Master Plan update process. Watch for opportunities to participate in a survey, and a fall community meeting.
- **Electric Aggregation** – a new rate has been set for the City’s program, and current participants and eligible residents and small businesses should be receiving letters informing them about the program, the rates, and their options.
- **E-Bikes and E-Scooters** – in response to the increased use of these motorized devices in the community, City Council will be considering a proposed program that would require residents to register (for free) their e-bikes, e-scooters and/or e-skateboards with the City. Anyone without a valid Ohio driver’s license would also be required to attend and pass a free safety class. The review process begins in May, and will include a survey for residents. Council will begin consideration of the proposed legislation in June, the summer recess will allow for additional research and input, and

then Council is expected to vote on the proposed program by early fall. If approved, the program would take effect January 2027.

- **Library Updates:**

- **Sustainability Fair** – this year’s fair was busy with more than 1,000 visitors and active participation in various recycling/reuse opportunities.
- **Summer Reading Program** – this annual favorite runs June 1-July 31.
- **STEAM Bash** – 3:30-5:30 pm, Friday, May 1. This popular program for kids celebrates the sciences and arts with hands on learning opportunities.
- **Language Learning Activities** – the Library is increasing its number of foreign languages conversations groups, due to increasing demand.
- **Cultural Festival** – this new event is planned for August 15, from 11 am-1 pm for residents to share insight on their different cultures. The CRC would be welcome to have a table at this event. A working list of participataion ideas will be developed to discuss at the May meeting.

4. **2026 Programs & Events Planning**

The CRC spent the rest of the meeting focused on working through plans for:

- Pride Month Flag Raising (outline attached)
- Juneteenth Flag Raising (outline attached)
- Porch Parties (outline attached)

5. **Liaison Updates**

- None

6. **May 20, 2026 Agenda Items**

- 2026 Programs & Events
- Prospective 2027 Event – Beehive Alliance’s Mental Health Fair for youth
- Liaison Updates
- June 18 Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm



2026 Pride Month Flag Raising Ceremony

Updated April 20, 2026

Event Details

4:30-6 pm, Monday, June 1, 2026

Municipal Services Center Front Plaza

(Concourse Gallery in the event of rain)

Proposed Program Outline

Detail	Lead	Time
Start of Library Activities	Kayla Toon	4:30 pm
Arrival/Networking/Refreshments/Library Activities		4:30-5:15 pm
Welcome	Ukeme Awakessien Jeter	5:15 pm
Guest Speaker	_____	5:20 pm
Presentation of Proclamation	Ukeme Awakessien Jeter	5:30 pm
Flag Raising	Ukeme, _____	5:35 pm
Group Photos/Networking/Refreshments/Library Activities		5:40 pm-end

Guest Speaker Ideas:

- Tim Cook, Bitty & Beau's (suggested by Rainbow UA)
- _____
- _____

Example Themes for 2026 Pride Programming

- New York – "For All of Us"
- Chicago – "Free to Be Proud"

Invitees

Email invitation sent week of May 11:

- City Council, City Staff
- Community Relations Committee / other Boards and Commissions
- Network UA members
- Rainbow UA; Equal UA
- UA School Board and Schools Admin
- UA Library Board and Library Admin

Logistics

- Pride flag
- Mayoral Proclamation
- Pop up tent (Parks & Rec to provide)
- 15-20 chairs
- Podium, podium flag
- PA system, camera
- Tables/chairs for Library activities
- Refreshments table, City tablecloth

Refreshments

- Cookies from Core Café/Bake Me Happy - @ \$200
 - o Contact: Wendy Miller Pugh – wendy@bakemehappygf.com
 - o plan for 60 attendees (ask for smaller versions of cookies to increase quantity)
 - o Include rainbow/pride cookies
- Fruit punch and infused water
- Buy supplies Sunday, prep Monday afternoon
- Napkins (weights/holder for napkins)

Activities for Kids Ideas

- Rainbow zebra sign craft (\$10.99 for 12 signs): [https://www.orientaltrading.com/rainbow-zebra-sign-craft-kit-makes-12-a2-14241407.fltr?ri=PRODUCT_DETAIL_PAGE&rm=Customers+Also+Bought&rt=RECOMMENDED_ITEM&rp=4&rs=14241613&filter=](https://www.orientaltrading.com/rainbow-zebra-sign-craft-kit-makes-12-a2-14241407.fltr?ri=PRODUCT_DETAIL_PAGE&rm=Customers+Also+Bought&rt=RECOMMENDED_ITEM&rp=4&rs=14241613&filter=a2-14241407.fltr?ri=PRODUCT_DETAIL_PAGE&rm=Customers+Also+Bought&rt=RECOMMENDED_ITEM&rp=4&rs=14241613&filter=)
- Temporary tattoos (\$7.49 per pack of 72): https://www.orientaltrading.com/bulk-72-pc--humankind-and-diversity-temporary-tattoos-72-pc--a2-13969069.fltr?sku=13969069&BP=PS544&ms=search&source=google&cm_mmc=GooglePLA--23486035144--190633346583--13969069&utm_medium=pla&utm_source=google&utm_id=23486035144&utm_content=13969069&utm_term=190633346583&utm_campaign=23486035144&tw_source=google&tw_adid=793633210693&tw_campaign=23486035144&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23486035144&gbraid=0AAAAAD5Vzxw2dxothTgGYhsa3V5PC2wo2&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI05jw8b_kwMV-bDCCB31IAgHEAQYBCABEgKzJvD_BwE
- Rainbow scratch bookmarks (\$7.99 per 30 bookmarks): https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/products/arts-crafts/craft-kits/rainbow-scratch-bookmarks/p/TS526/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=OG_SEM_NB_GOOG_SHOP_performancemax_LOWER_MAIN_NC_BAU&utm_content=OG_SEM_NB_GOOG_SHOP_performancemax_LOWER_MAIN_NC_BAU|General|&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23230172071&gbraid=0AAAAAD39dlTb3p5SGYsF9BL827eDzoKEO&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI05jw8b_kwMV-bDCCB31IAgHEAQYDiABEglvrfD_BwE

Promotions

- City Website:
 - o Community Calendar listing
 - o News Flash (blog) on homepage – May 27
- May/June UA insight Print Newsletter – included in event calendar
- City Insight eNews – May 22, 29 (promote event); June 5 (event photos)
- Social Media – FB event, various posts on all platforms
- Tri-Village Chamber Partnership eNews – mid-May
- Flyer to share with Network UA, Library, UA Schools Flyer Connection

2026 Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony Outline

Updated April 20, 2026

Event Details

4:30-6 pm, Monday, June 15, 2026

Municipal Services Center Front Plaza

(Concourse Gallery in the event of rain)

Proposed Program Outline

Detail	Lead	Time
Start of Library Activities	Kayla Toon	4:30 pm
Arrival/Networking/Refreshments		4:30-5:15 pm
Welcome	Ukeme Awakessien Jeter	5:15 pm
Guest Speaker	_____	5:20 pm
Presentation of Proclamation	Ukeme Awakessien Jeter	5:30 pm
Flag Raising	Ukeme, _____	5:35 pm
Group Photos/Networking/Refreshments/Library Activities		5:40 pm-end

Guest Speaker Ideas:

- **Michael Coleman** (former Mayor of Columbus – Steve suggestion in 2025)
- **Hasan Jefferies:** Professor at OSU: Expert in Civil Rights (Ukeme could contact?)
- **Meredith Lawson-Rowe**, served as a member of the Reynoldsburg City Council and was involved in the founding of Juneteenth for the city.
- **Derrick Clay**, President and CEO of Columbus Chamber of Commerce
- Artists: **April Sunami** or **Lance Johnson**
- **Kwesi Kambon**
- **Barbara Smoot:** CEO of WELD

Example 2026 Themes

- National: “Juneteenth brings balance to America’s Celebration of Freedom”
- Buffalo: “Honoring the past, serving the present, and inspiring the future”

Invitees

Email invitation sent week of May 25:

- City Council, City Staff
- Community Relations Committee / other Boards and Commissions
- Network UA members
- Rainbow UA; Equal UA
- UA School Board and Schools Admin
- UA Library Board and Library Admin

Logistics

- Juneteenth flag
- Mayoral Proclamation
- Pop up tent (Parks & Rec to provide)
- 15-20 chairs
- Podium, podium flag
- PA system, camera
- Tables/chairs for Library activities
- Refreshments table, City tablecloth
- Tongs for cookies
- Trash container

Refreshments

- Cookies from Core Café/Bake Me Happy - @ \$200
 - o Contact: Wendy Miller Pugh – wendy@bakemehappygf.com
 - o plan for 60 attendees (ask for smaller versions of cookies to increase quantity)
- Fruit punch and infused water
- Buy supplies Sunday, prep Monday afternoon
- Napkins (weights/holder for napkins)

Activities for Kids Ideas

- Fold up activity sheets (\$6.79 for 24 pieces): https://www.orientaltrading.com/juneteenth-fold-up-activity-sheets-24-pc--a2-14241613.fltr?sku=14241613&BP=PS544&ms=search&source=google&cm_mmc=GooglePLA-_-23486035144-_-190633346583-_-14241613&utm_medium=pla&utm_source=google&utm_id=23486035144&utm_content=14241613&utm_term=190633346583&utm_campaign=23486035144&tw_source=google&tw_adid=793633210693&tw_campaign=23486035144&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23486035144&gbraid=0AAAAAD5Vzxw2dxothTgGYhsa3V5PC2wo2&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI2Pf9hrD_kwMV44bCCB3NSjfuEAQYAiABEgIzDPD_BwE
- Silicone bracelets (\$13.99 per pack of 10 bracelets): <https://www.positivepromotions.com/black-history-is-american-history-2-sided-silicone-bracelet-pack-of-10/p/sb-131f/>
- Bookmarks (\$12.29 per pack of 50): https://www.positivepromotions.com/juneteenth-remembering-our-history-celebrating-our-future-bookmark-pack-of-50/p/km1119v/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Shopping_Juneteenth_T2&utm_term=&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23760746536&gbraid=0AAAAAD_WnCQEa4_q-eHJALenoCvZESmcC&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI2Pf9hrD_kwMV44bCCB3NSjfuEAQYByABEgKqwPD_BwE

Promotions

- City Website:
 - o Community Calendar listing
 - o News Flash (blog) on homepage – June 10
- May/June UA insight Print Newsletter – included in event calendar
- City Insight eNews – June 5, 12 (promote event); June 19 (event photos)
- Social Media – FB event, various posts on all platforms
- Tri-Village Chamber Partnership eNews – early June
- Flyer to share with Network UA, Library, UA Schools Flyer Connection

2026 Upper Arlington Porch Parties

A Community Relations Committee Welcome Series Event

Updated April 21, 2026

Program Partners

- Community Relations Committee
- Porch Party founders at Equal UA
- Upper Arlington Community Foundation
- Upper Arlington Library
- Utilize materials available through Columbus Foundation’s Center for Human Kindness?
- Upper Arlington Historical Society? (UA history activity cards)
- Other prospects?

Program Goals

- Facilitate a minimum of 100 Porch Parties across UA, connecting upwards of 1,000 residents with their neighbors.
- Encourage neighborhood-level gatherings that bring neighbors together socially, with a focus on connecting new residents, and reconnecting longtime residents with their local neighbors.
- Nurture a sense of belonging and safety for all residents
- Encourage stronger neighborhood networks

Timeline

Detail	Dates	Responsibility
Determine/order supplies	June/July	_____
Design promotional materias	June	_____
Distribute Porch Party kits to Libraries and BCCC	July 27-31	_____
Online Porch Party registration opens	August 1	_____
Porch Party registration closes (if program not full)	September 25	_____
Recommended timeframe for hosting Porch Parties	August 15-October 18	
Distribute survey	Week of October 19	
Survey deadline	November 1	

Notes

- Registration must be completed online to pick up a Porch Party pack
- Require contact information of the resident registering for a Porch Party pack
- Encourage photographs from Porch Parties
- Follow up survey and/or phone calls

Porch Party Packet (many items listed were from 2024)

- Reusable canvas bags
- Yard signs (not popular)
- Invitations
- Candy, popcorn, lemonade
- Napkins (black and gold)
- Colored chalk
- Other kids activity ideas?
- Door hanger
- CRC resources

Promotions

- City website:
- News Flash (blog) on homepage – late July
- UA Insight print newsletter – promote in July/August issue
- City Insight eNews – begin promotions mid-July, run through September 25
- Social media
- Flyers distributed via Network UA, Libraries, Community Center, Schools Flyer Connection