

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 7:00 PM, Goshen City Hall, 202 S. Fifth St.

Commissioners present: Ed Ahlersmeyer, Joe Liechty, Sandra McMasters, Glenn Null, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer Rempel, George Smucker

Commissioners absent: Bryce Gast, Bob Rademaker

Consultant present: Darin Short

Visitors: Mayor Allan Kauffman, Lee Roy Berry, Jr., Dan Shenk, Roger Schneider, Danny Klink, Cecelia Lapp Stoltzfus

1. Call to Order and Opening

- a. Nate called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- b. The agenda was accepted as amended. Glenn Null reflected on his six years as a CRC member. He has grown, he says, learning to know people and having conversations that he wouldn't have otherwise, and he believes that we all have also grown through his participation, representing a conservative voice; we are all more open than we once were. He has not always agreed with CRC actions, but he has on the whole been positive about our work.

All members expressed their warm appreciation of Glenn's distinctive contribution to the CRC.

- c. Joe Liechty will give the December reflection.

2. Review minutes for October 14, 2014

- a. October minutes were reviewed and approved. (Glenn/Ed/carried)

3. Treasurer's report

- a. Bryce couldn't be present, so Nate did a brief summary of main statistics. Nate then reported on a meeting between him, Bryce, and Glenn to discuss encumbrances for next year. We will encumber a total of about \$8400.

4. Reports and statistics

- a. Darin reports that we received no discrimination claims.

5. A proposed resolution about Goshen's "Sundown Town" history

- a. Dan Shenk and Lee Roy Berry presented the proposed resolution. Dan began by giving some background to the resolution, especially around his work on Goshen's history as a sundown town. His research has recently included checking to see if other sundown towns have made resolutions regarding their past, but he has found none. He therefore drafted a resolution from scratch; it has been through several drafts based on comments from others. Lee Roy Berry then presented his big-picture perspective on the issues involved.

CRC members responded. Sreekala was immediately affirmative: "this must be done." Bryce wrote a letter asking us to go slow on this resolution, and noting that this is properly a City Council matter. Glenn recalled trying to talk to Goshen citizens about the sundown town issue and meeting much resistance to acknowledging it. He sees a resolution as unnecessary and likely to open a can of worms. Joe supported the idea in general, noting key things that he thinks should be included. Mayor Kauffman asked that if a resolution comes to the Council, it should be endorsed by the CRC. Ed talked about the conditions necessary to create a document that the Council could work with. George asked if there are ways to get the community engaged with the issues involved rather than leaving it a public, formal matter for the Council.

Nate asked a sub-group of Bryce, Sandra, Ed, and Joe to reflect on the issue and bring a report or recommendation to the next meeting.

6. May Taste of Goshen

- a. Nate asked Gina for some cost estimates in relation to Taste of Goshen for encumbrance purposes, but this proved not to be necessary.

7. Motion to reinstate CPP discussion from earlier agenda (Glenn/Ed/carried)

- a. Gilberto Perez was able to come and reported on developments. He will return funds left over from last year's CPP work and come with a new proposal for the next CRC meeting. He then reported on the final CPP discussion at St. John's Catholic Church, which was held on Sunday, 9 November, with ca. 250 in attendance. There were some tough issues brought up, but also comments that seemed to provide a segue to the kind of neighborhood involvement issues that Gilberto wants to address with his next Bienvenido Community Solutions project, which the CRC will consider supporting.

8. Vision project update

- a. Darin provided a brief report. There is a survey that is going to be administered soon, in a variety of ways. They have had one Vision Project small group dialogue, which will serve as something of a template for further dialogues.

9. Nominating officers for 2015

- a. Nominations are:
 - i. chair, Nate
 - ii. vice-chair, Sandra
 - iii. treasurer, Bryce
 - iv. secretary is uncertain; Ed is open to the possibility.

10. For the good of the CRC

- a. Angie Troyer of Humans of Goshen hopes to have a community presentation around Christmas.

11. Announcements by CRC members

12. Adjournment (Glenn/Sreekala/carried)

Next scheduled meeting is December 9, 2014

Joe Liechty, recorder