

Minutes:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 202 S. Fifth St.

CRC members Present: Bryce Gast, Ed Ahlersmeyer, Anne H. Berry, Nathan Mateer Rempel, Sandra McMasters

CRC members Absent: Kelly Huffman, George Smucker, Sreekala Rajagopalan,

Guests Present: Darin Short, Richard Aguirre

1. Nate Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00

- a. The agenda was accepted as proposed.
- b. Opening reflection by Bryce Gast, he discussed the act of patience and how it related to the process of discussing the sundown resolution. Patience in the process included not just speaking, but hard listening, which made a better resolution for the council to consider.
June reflection: Anne H. Berry

2. Review minutes for April 14, 2015

Minutes from April were reviewed and approved. (Bryce, Sandra, Carried)

3. Treasurer's report: Bryce Gast gave the monthly report. He also reported that the commission mid year report is pushed back till June meeting in order to disburse Taste of Goshen Funds.

4. Reports and statistics: Darin reported there has been no new activity, and voicemail system has changed. Therefore, we currently do not have access. Sandra expressed concern that we do not have business cards to distribute. Commission is considering the purchase of 1000 business cards for distribution. Anne will get a design together and research pricing.

5. Taste of Goshen re-cap: Nate began re-cap discussion. Our group photo is on Facebook page, yet Anne realized the page is not public. Darin commented that his Mother in Law found the event great, but the lines to vendors were too long. The commission could consider additional vendors and layout changes, maps or layout tables. Questions discussed:

- a. Should the CRC make credit/debit purchases available for the consumers during event?
- b. Should the CRC also outsourcing labor?
- c. Should the CRC provide tables for bands to display/ vend?

Lines may have turned children's visa project participants away. Project winners were drawn and prizes were distributed. Power supply continues to be an issue, and suggested the CRC contact the street dept. for use of city owned generators and equipment, if available. Grills will be encouraged, as long as fire extinguishers are present per health department. A survey will be sent to the food vendors for feedback, and a post event meeting could be considered for next year's event.

6. Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Right Agencies Conference: Nate indicated a teaching conference will be held in June, and the event would like a discussion on Goshen's Sundown Resolution. Darin will present on behalf of the CRC June 25, 2015 in Richmond, IN. Darin requested feedback on the Sundown impact on Goshen, and statements by community members.

7. Vision 2025 update: Darin Short gave an update indicating we are needing analysis for data collected. Letting steering committee listen to dialogues and find themes, identifying tendencies, is an option. Darin will speak w/ Phil Thomas and arrange for Steering Committee to meet and study data.

8. For the good of the CRC: Richard R. Aguirre, a Goshen resident, spoke as a former member and chair of the CRC about protections for the GLBTQ community. Specifically, he spoke about the issue of adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to city Ordinance 4339. He recounted the CRC's past action on the 2009 proposal, the City Council's eventual "no" vote, the turmoil in the community and the resulting development of the CRC's statement of principles. He discussed the recent state controversy over the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. (RFRA) He also stated that the new possible proposal does not need to be processed through the CRC again since in prior voting there was only one dissenting vote and that there was a greater rationale for amending the ordinance now than in 2009. Richard also stated that it would be cynical and disruptive for the Republican majority of the City Council to refer the proposal to the CRC unless at least Republican council member was willing to join Democratic members in supporting the expanded ordinance. Ed Ahlersmeyer responded by discussing the motives of Mayor Kauffman in reviving the issue. Ed said that the council majority might be unwilling to approve a new proposal for added protections. Ed also said that there may be support for an ordinance if the council solely considered adding 2 – words instead of 4. CRC members Nathan, Anne, Bryce and Sandra made brief comments about the issue. No vote was taken.

Richard spoke as former member of CRC and protections for the LGBT community. Proposal need not be processed through CRC again since prior voting had only one descending member. He reviewed the process by which the previous Ordinance was proposed. Richard illustrated that it would be unfair for the CRC to discuss a civil rights proposal if the council would just vote it down.

10. Adjournment: Motion was made to Adjourn at 9:21pm. (Bryce, Ed, Carried)

Next meeting is June 9, 2015

Ed Ahlersmeyer: Recorder