

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 202 S. Fifth St.

Commissioners Present: Bryce Gast, Ed Ahlersmeyer, Kelly Huffman, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer Rempel, George Smucker, Sandra McMasters

Commissioners Absent: Anne H. Berry

Consultant Present: Darin Short

Guests Present: Allan Kauffman, Mary Cripe, Jeremy Stutzman, Richard Aguirre, Brett Weddell, Adam Scharff, Andrea Milne

1. **Call to Order & Opening**

- a. Nate Called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- b. review the agenda
- c. Opening reflection by Kelly Huffman. "If you keep devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Kelly commented on her time growing up and moving from town to town, and how she appreciated remaining in Goshen as long as she has. Many issues are polarizing the area, and the way things are handled sometimes results in power battles. If we could find a better way than getting entrenched in our own hearts and minds, that would be better for the community. August reflection: Nathan Mateer Rempel

2. **Review minutes for June 9, 2015**

- a. June minutes were reviewed and motion made to table to clarify wording. (Nate, George, Carried) A review of requested edits from May meeting were approved. (Ed, Sandra, Carried)

3. **Treasurer's report:** Bryce gave the report on the past month charges for contractual services of consultant and transcriptions of Vision Project. CRC budget for 2015 would be 31,215 and encumbrance would be \$15,999. Question, does the CRC look to maintain higher appropriation, or return to typical \$24,000 annual request. Kelly stated a Marketing sub-committee could be created to discuss CRC needs. Nate suggested Anne, Kelley, and Sandra to participate in the Marketing Sub-Committee. Vision Budget demands are unknown for 2016, and needs to be discussed again before 2016 budget proposal to the council in September.

4. **Reports and statistics:** Darin stated email is accessible and there have been no contacts. Phone voicemail is not accessible still, since city phone change/update. Fred Schaefer, City Tech, has been contacted to help re-establish our voicemail.

5. **Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Right Agencies Conference:** Darin Short made a presentation at its annual conference discussing the Sundown resolution passed in Goshen earlier this year.

6. **Vision 2025 update:** Darin gave an update on the Vision 2025 project which included a timeline of events, and participatory analysis dialogues roster/schedule.

7. **Review of recent events related to Civil Rights Ordinance and proposed resolutions:** Nathan opened discussion on the proposed ordinance/resolutions. Allan Kauffman gave the commission ordinance proposals and resolutions for review. Brett Weddell also gave a proposal and information on the Non-binding resolution definition. He stated that passing an ordinance or resolution is an indicator for the state to take action on investigating the need to amend the current civil rights commission. Sreekala agreed that the 4 words "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" need to be in a ordinance/resolution. George commented that the discussion is good, and stated that it is important to take some action. Richard Aguirre handed out ordinances from south

bend and Indianapolis illustrating the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity. Allan confirmed what Brett said in regards to a city's inability to create new classes of protection, but would like a mechanism to allow investigation. Kelley mention the difficulty businesses could have getting up to speed on updating policies and handbooks to understand and educate employees. Allan has indicated that the CRC couldn't consult and refer a case of discrimination based on identities and orientation.

8. Marketing the CRC-action on business cards, etc. Nathan tabled discussion to August meeting.

9. For the good of the CRC: Project to provide WIFI hotspots in parks for youth, is a topic to consider in the future.

10. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn (Sreekala, Kelley, Carried) 9:38pm!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next meeting is August 08-11-2015

Recorder: Ed Ahlersmeyer

Future agenda items: CRC resolution on Confederate battle flag, RFP for Latino youth engagement in local businesses