

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 202 S. Fifth St.

Members Present: Ed Ahlersmeyer, Anne H. Berry, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer Rempel Sandra McMasters

Members Absent: Kelly Huffman, Bryce Gast, George Smucker

Guests: Sharon Hernandez (Media), Gilberto Perez, Richard Aguirre, Darin Short

- 1. Call to Order & Opening:** Nathan Called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
 - a. Nate introduced Jose Elizalde as a guest and Advisor for the Community Outreach Program. Jose noted he attempted to call the CRC phone number and it was not working at the time.
 - b. The Agenda was reviewed, Motion to add Religion in Schools between items 6&7 (Sreekala, Anne, Carried)
 - c. Nathan reflected on the recent issues in the community: School mascot, Civil Protections. In each instance, Nate recognized the suggestion of utilizing the Commission. Stated he was glad to work with the commission and looking forward to offering solutions to the community in the future. September reflection: Sreekala Rajagopalan

- 2. Review minutes for July 14, 2015**
 - a. July 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. (Sandra, Sreekala, Carried)
 - b. June 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with Changes to 2a. (Sreekala, Sandra, Carried)

- 3. Treasurer's report and 2016 Budget Discussion**
 - a. Nathan offered a review of the budget. It is recommended that the commission ask the City Council for an equal budget of \$34,000 for 2016. Anne, Kelley, and Sandra are forming a Marketing sub-committee to explore the budget needs for the campaign. A motion was made to approve the 2016 budget request. (Sreekala, Sandra, Carried)

- 4. Reports and statistics:**
 - a. Nathan said a woman named Brandy contacted the CRC in regards to a Landlord dispute. The conflict appeared to be resolved. The voice mail message will be an English/ Spanish message. No emails were received

- 5. Vision 2025 update:**
 - a. Nathan mention a community discussion was attended by Sandra and Anne. Demographic themes from surveys and dialogues were displayed and discussed. Nate indicated that 50% of those participating in surveys were college educated. Incomes of participants were average. Anne indicated themes appeared to be generated from all spectrums of participants. Nate indicated the steering committee will generate a report from the data, and that report will guide the efforts of the CRC. Sandra updated the commission that the Final Participatory Analysis meeting will be at St. John's, Friday 6:00pm. Ed indicated that he would attend as an additional Commission member.

- 6. Latino Neighborhood Outreach Update:** Gilberto Perez discussed the CRC March Proposal to bring Latino communities closer to their neighborhood associations, involvement, and membership. The Outreach is partnered with La Casa. A meeting was conducted at the Jail Chaplain's house, and exercises were conducted to educate the attendees on what associations do. Individuals were asked to recall their experiences and perceptions of their neighborhoods as they grew up. A Bricolage Meeting was also conducted encouraging

attendees to connect with others in their neighborhood, their network. Goats, Fruit bearing trees, and gardens were suggested as beneficial to the community. Other picnics and meetings are scheduled.

6.5 Religion in Schools: Sreekala discussed an event where children, at a local school, were washing other student's feet, and the school was also handing out bibles. She indicated that she had replied to posts asking for **all** religions to be included in such displays, and this could be considered exclusive of other religions. She had received many comments that were not supportive of her post. However, many individuals supported her agreeing that this shouldn't be happening in the public school. Speaking up, and the backing of the CRC, are experiences that help her going forward with issues she believes in.

7. Review of Tuesday August 4, 2015 public forum on Civil Rights Ordinance:

a. Nate opened discussion of the Tuesday City Council that tabled indefinitely the Civil Rights Amendment. He indicated he would have liked to have seen rational discourse. Anne indicated that many were frustrated that the amendments were tabled. Nate said that he was grateful for the city personnel helping the event, creating a safe environment. Ed commented on the event, saying he appreciated the format of community discussion, and the opportunity for all to speak. He also said the EEOC ruling stating that "sex" was inclusive of identities and orientations, and an amendment may not be needed. Ed also indicated that he would appreciate testimony from all individuals with knowledge of the issues, even if they are not representatives of Goshen. Richard indicated that the EEOC ruling isn't law, and could be overturned by other courts. He also disagreed with Ed about outside representatives speaking on Goshen issues, stating the ACLU was allowing such issues to remain debated locally. The commission continued discussing the issue in regards to where the community goes from here.

8. Distribution of CRC consultant evaluation forms: Nathan will email the forms to the commission.

9. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Recorder: Ed Ahlersmeyer