

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION Tuesday // January 12, 2016 // 7:00 p.m., Goshen City Hall, 202 S. Fifth St.

**CRC members present:** Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer Rempel, David Araujo, Anne Berry, Bryce Gast, Ed Ahlersmeyer

**Members absent:** Rocio Diaz, Kelly Huffman

**Guests:** Darin Short, consultant; Julia King, city council rep

### 1. Call to order and opening

- a. Nate called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
- b. Brief introduction of visitors
- c. The meeting agenda was reviewed
- d. Looking back through the annual report, Nate reflected on the relevance of the CRC; many CRC meetings have been focused on issues brought to the commission's attention by Goshen residents, which speaks to the CRC's role within the community; he is thankful for the Vision Project as a way to maintain focus while responding to needs in the community.
- e. March reflection: Ed Ahlersmeyer

2. **Review January 8, 2015 minutes.** Motion to approve with the addition of Anne H. Berry's name to list of CRC members present (Bryce, Sreekala, motion carried.)

### 3. Treasurer's report (Bryce Gast)

Expenditures for the period:

- The \$50.00 donation made to the CRC/Diversity Day fund turned out to be a canceled check.

### 4. Reports and statistics

- Darin reported no phone calls, however, there were some general emails/inquiries about the [Indiana Civil Rights Commission / Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies \(ICRC\)](#).
- There was an invoice for \$50 that other CRC-related organizations around the state are paying to become members of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission; there may be advantages to a membership; Ed and David asked for more information before paying the fee. Darin will follow up.
- Ed invited Diana Ordoñez (sp?) to attend CRC meetings; she has some interest / may be willing to serve on the commission.
- There was brief discussion regarding the number of CRC members and whether or not it makes sense to stick with nine members; Julia wondered if 1-2 seats could be designated for high school-aged students, and commissioners thought this was a suggestion worth considering.

### 5. Prioritizing Vision emphasis categories

Conversation focusing on four areas of emphasis that came out of SWOT analysis/discussion:

- Darin provided Participatory Analysis Dialogue Notes document for review. (Mission statement is a good criteria for prioritizing; another form of criteria could be based on what the CRC is equipped to handle.)
- Nate named "challenges to the common good" and "engage, embrace, and celebrate our cultural commonalities and differences" as priorities b/c they relate most directly to the CRC mission statement.
- Kelly voiced support for focusing on common good as opposed to challenges or cultural differences because diversity—from her perspective—has already been a dominant part of the conversation. The questions remains, however: Where does diversity factor into mission and vision priorities?
- David communicated constituent concerns about lack of Latino teachers in schools; there are qualified individuals who are licensed but not being hired.
- There was also conversation around greater transparency for local boards and other organizations so that more members of the community are aware of possible opportunities for involvement.
- Darin will focus next month's conversation on specific initiatives that speak to the areas of emphasis identified, i.e., challenges and cultural commonalities/differences.

**6. Marketing Sub-committee report**

Anne gave a recap of the committee meeting; commissioners spent some time brainstorming a list of words and phrases that might lead to the development of a tag line; commissioners agreed that a tag line is needed in order to move forward with marketing materials.

**7. Annual Report draft**

Nate mentioned the attendance record of commissioners as something to specifically be aware of, given that the percentage is slightly low. He also asked for feedback on other items mentioned in the report.

**8. Evaluation of grant request from Goshen Community Chorale**

Nate asked for three commissioners to meet to discuss a request by the Goshen Community Chorale for funding support, and then bring a recommendation to the commission. David, Bryce, and Sreekala volunteered, though Nate clarified that he would first check with Larry Barks regarding potential legal issues.

**9. Taste of Goshen next steps**

- Darin will take the lead in planning the event; Nate and Sreekala agreed to be part of the committee, and Anne volunteered to help w/ ad hoc design items.
- Darin will talk to Sandra about helping or recruiting additional help, and asked commissioners to think about names of people in the community / outside of CRC who may be willing to participate in planning the event.
- Pulling together food vendors will take priority.
- Darin will convene the next Taste of Goshen planning meeting.
- City should have generators that CRC can use free of charge (CRC should not have to pay for them); Ed will follow up on this item.

**10. 2016 Officers**

Nate asked the Mayor about getting someone to take minutes for CRC meetings. The commission also needs a secretary and a vice chair. David is willing to consider; Nate will also approach Rocio. Kelly made a motion to put together a slate of names: Ed as Vice Chair, David as Secretary (Kelly, Anne, motion carried).

**11. For the good of the CRC**

- Darin suggested that commissioners consider the idea of using something like the [Periscope app](#) that would allow CRC meetings to be viewed like a live feed.
- Darin will go to the library and ask to post/change the Humans of Goshen displays once a month; Ed suggested that other people in the community be given a chance to add their stories. (How/where might they be able to do this?)

**12. Adjournment** (Kelly, Anne, motion carried.)

Next meeting is March 8, 2016

Anne H. Berry, Recorder