

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 202 South 5th Street, Goshen, Indiana

CRC Mission: *Our mission is to foster a climate of positive community relationships and non-discrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment and access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property.*

CRC Members Present: Ed Ahlersmeyer, Rocio Diaz, John Ferguson, Bryce Gast, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer-Rempel and Angie Troyer

CRC Members Absent: David Araujo

CRC Consultant Present: Darin Short (via Skype)

1. Call to Order & Opening (7:02-7:10)

- a. Nathan called the meeting to order.
- b. Introductions of all present were asked for and offered.
- c. Angie Troyer was introduced as a new Commissioner.
- d. Nathan asked that Commissioners review the evening's agenda. No changes were offered.
- e. The ***Opening Reflection*** was offered by Bryce, who stated that he will be leaving the CRC at the end of the year. He and his family are moving, and while they will remain in Goshen, he will no longer reside within the City limits. He loves life in Goshen and has enjoyed his 3.5 years on the CRC very much. He looks forward to remaining very involved in Goshen life.

Ed and Sreekala each thanked Bryce for his contributions to both the City and to the CRC.

2. Review of Minutes for CRC Meeting of July 12, 2016 (7:10-7:12)

Nathan asked that members review and comment on distributed minutes.

ACTION: Ed moved that the minutes of the meeting of July 12, 2016 be approved. The motion was seconded by Sreekala and was unanimously passed by members.

3. Treasurer's Report (7:12-7:13)

Bryce commented that there is a small amount of money owed to John Hall's Hardware. He also added that there will be two payments issued to Darin this month. At present, the CRC account shows a balance of slightly more than \$35,433. The Diversity Day account balance is slightly more than \$8,326.

There were no questions asked of Bryce.

4. Reports and Statistics (7:13-7:26)

- a. Darin reported that there has been no further discussion with Francisco. Rocio asked how long we should wait before having contact with him. After brief discussion, it was decided that Rocio will contact Francisco, updating him.
- b. Darin reported that there has been no other hotline activity this month.
- c. Angie reported on her meeting with Rob Roeder(spelling?). Their meeting was not contentious. Rob is trying to craft a message that both he and the community at-large can accept. He will not suggest a hateful message. Rather, he wants to communicate that while he does not agree with the position of the LGBTU community, he wants to promote tolerance. He will contact Angie to talk more. Angie commented that his current thoughts represent a change of heart. Nate added that he means well and asked that Angie keep him informed of developments.

Ed commented that Rob has been in touch with City Council members. He believes that Rob is trying to craft a message which focuses on commonalities among all people, rather than on our numerous differences.

Sreekala suggested that Rob be invited to a CRC meeting to have discussion. It was noted however, that he is not comfortable speaking in public.

5. Mediation Grant Payment Method Update (7:26-7:32)

Nathan reported that the Center for Community Justice prefers to pay the CRC directly rather than submitting payment to LaCasa. CRC will be paid now on a case-by-case basis.

ACTION: *Nathan will check to see if the payment of \$75 is paid per meeting or per case.*

6. Carrying the Vision Forward Subcommittee Report (7:32-7:58)

As a recap, it was noted that a proposal was first reviewed in April. Sreekala and Rocio met with Darin at that time, trying to develop initiative ideas. At present, these three components are as follows:

- a. Development of a **presentation**, telling the community about the CRC, its mission and its programs,
- b. Conduct a **survey**, learning what the community knows of the CRC at present and soliciting ideas for future initiatives. Nathan commented that a basic written hand-out is needed – something that can be easily produced and used in various forums. It was agreed that said document must be available in Spanish.

ACTION: *Angie and John volunteered to work with Darin in the production of such a piece.*

- c. Present a **Vision Kick-Off Event**

ACTION: *Nathan and Sreekala agreed to serve on a planning committee. David as well?*

Darin noted that a committee should be formed to identify a provider of marketing consultation. He does not believe that this procurement need be competitive. But, the CRC needs to develop a request-for-proposals to guide the procurement process.

ACTION: *Rocio, Angie and John volunteered to assist Darin in development of the RFP.*

7. Criteria for Selecting Intercultural Award Recipient (7:58-8:10)

Darin discussed the draft guidelines which had been distributed. Feedback was offered by CRC members. Sreekala stressed the importance that candidates not only accept diversity, but actively enhance differences – positively developing the community mosaic.

Nathan posed a number of questions. How will this be promoted? Will the award be tied to the kick-off event? What is the award itself? When will the award be presented? At Taste of Goshen? On the CRC anniversary date?

Angie suggested that we look to the Angels Among Us initiative for some ideas.

8. Representative Boards and Commissions Initiative Update (8:10-8:15)

Various groups and organizations will be surveyed, soliciting their input on the importance of diversity of various governing/leadership groups, thoughts regarding the identification, recruitment and training of such individuals, etc. This will be distributed in both written and electronic formats within the next month, and will include a cover letter from the mayor.

9. For the Good of the CRC (8:15-8:24)

Nathan noted that Richard Aguirre has ideas for stimulating community conversation and will present these thoughts to the CRC.

Rocio referenced Francisco (see 4.a. above) once again, asking how he learned of the CRC. She asked how the CRC should promote itself among the Hispanic/Latino community.

10. Announcements by CRC Members (8:24-8:33)

- a. Ed commented that the City has created a new communications manager position and this individual may be helpful in a number of the CRC marketing and promotional needs mentioned tonight.
- b. Sreekala commented that with Anne's departure, the CRC needs to secure representation from the African American community.
- c. It was reported that the inaugural Salsa Festival at the Farmers' Market went fairly well. Community attendance could have been greater. But, there were 22 vendors present. There were many Hispanic visitors.

ACTION: Nathan will invite Bill Mateer to attend next month's meeting, offering a formal report regarding the Festival.

11. Adjournment (8:33)

The next meeting of the Goshen CRC is scheduled for September 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Ed moved to adjourn the CRC meeting of August 9, 2016. The motion was seconded by Bryce and was unanimously passed.