

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: Bryce Gast, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Kelly Huffman, Nathan Mateer Rempel, George Smucker, Rocio Diaz, David Araujo

Members absent: Ed Ahlersmeyer

Guests: Darin Short, consultant; Jeremy Stutsman, mayor

1. Call to order and opening

- a. Nate called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- b. Nate introduced new CRC members Rocio Diaz and David Araujo
- c. The meeting agenda was reviewed
- d. Jeremy Stutsman:
 - Interested in considering a larger budget for CRC
 - Communicated that his door is always open; he wants to continue finding ways to bring the community together; he's also putting together a Latino Advisory Committee, and hoping that a representative of this committee will occasionally meet w/ CRC to stay in communication
 - Reiterated his commitment to making the city a safe place and ensuring that city council is attentive to issues that they can enforce, such as residents being taken advantage of by landlords; additionally, he expressed interest in looking at ways to help undocumented parents participate more directly in their children's education
 - New city website, which will include Google translate, will create better ways to interact with city government; given the CRC visibility issue, particularly when it comes to discrimination reports, Jeremy suggested creating a CRC tab on the city website homepage as one way to get people more directly connected online, as well as working through churches to reach people in the community; it was also suggested that alternative avenues for directing members of the community to CRC be created for people who are not connected to churches
- e. George Smucker reflected on his tenure as part of the CRC:
 - "Cui bono" or "who benefits?"; how do we as a commission identify the issues we should be engaged in? And, just as importantly, how do we analyze information we need to help determine our priorities?
 - Grant program is one of the best ways we can provide outreach (big success, small investment)
 - Sundown Town Resolution signals that we've come a long way in terms of addressing Goshen's history as a racist town; we've also experienced intercultural success in Goshen (schools, police department, ministerial association, social services organizations such as La Casa, Diversity Day)
 - Regarding the Vision statement: he wished for it to be more future-oriented but thinks it's an active statement of who we are and what we do, and a great foundation for branding and marketing; we must not lose sight of the issue of inclusion in particular
 - Circling back to the concept of "who benefits," and analyzing information, he regrets lack of progress on LGBTQ issues and wondered how CRC might do a better job of gauging the pulse of the community; it can be hard to find data—as one example, the School Transfers data, though it doesn't reflect racial makeup, suggests that some of the numbers in the Goshen school system (more students transferring out than transferring in) are a result of white flight
- f. February reflection: Nathan Mateer Rempel

2. **Review December 8, 2015 minutes.** Motion to approve (Bryce, George, carried.)
3. **Treasurer's report** (Bryce Gast)
Expenditures for the period:
 - \$1,125 – Darin's monthly salary; \$387.95 – A portion of the fee for writing the Vision report; \$500.00 – A portion of the fee for writing the Vision report; Total for the period - \$2,012.95
Requested Encumbrances:
 - \$13,500.00 – Darin's fee (\$1,125 x 12); \$2,000.00 – Taste of Goshen; \$500.00 – Neighbor to Neighbor Mediation; Total requested encumbrance - \$16,000.00
 - Budget Balance for year's end - \$19,678.24
 - Requested Encumbrance - \$16,000.00
 - Unencumbered Budget - \$3,678.24 (Returns to General Fund)
 - A \$50.00 donation was also made to the CRC/Diversity Day fund. Bryce requested information on that from Tina and will let commissioners know where it came from as soon as he finds out.
4. **Reports and statistics**
 - Darin reported no phone calls or e-mails.
 - Nathan met with Darin and David Araujo, spoke with Rocio by phone, and exchanged communication with Jeremy Stutsman in preparation for Tuesday's meeting.
 - Regina Shands Stoltzfus, assistant professor of peace, justice and conflict studies at Goshen College, was awarded the 2016 Spirit of Justice Award by the State of Indiana Civil Rights Commission. She was also recognized during Goshen College's MLK Day celebration.
5. **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise**
Darin led commissioners through an open conversation to identify issues within the four SWOT categories, and will subsequently follow up with commissioners via e-mail regarding some of the items that were discussed.
6. **Prioritizing Vision emphasis categories**
Due to time, Darin suggested postponing this agenda item until next month. Motion to amend the agenda (Kelly, Anne, carried). Question to continue thinking about: What is our criteria for prioritizing?
7. **Marketing**
Marketing subcommittee will meet before the next CRC meeting; the next Taste of Goshen event provides an opportunity to highlight/publicize the results of the Vision Project in particular. Sreekala will assist the marketing committee.
8. **2016 Officers**
Has still not been decided. In lieu of a full-time secretary, Nathan will assign minutes on a meeting-by-meeting basis. The commission will vote on these items next month.
9. **For the good of the CRC**
Motion made to send three CRC commissioners to Goshen College's MLK Day breakfast (Kelly, Sreekala, carried). Rocio will take care of the reservation and Nathan will pay Rocio for the tickets.
10. **Announcements by CRC members**
Honey's is open every morning at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.
11. **Adjournment** (Bryce, George, carried.)

Next meeting is February 9, 2016
Anne H. Berry, Recorder