

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

Tuesday, September 13, 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, David Araujo, Rocio Diaz, John Ferguson, Bryce Gast, Judy Snider, Nathan Mateer-Rempel and Angie Troyer

CRC Members Absent: Sreekala Rajagopalan

CRC Consultant Present: Darin Short

Guests Present: JoEllen Davis, Goshen Farmers' Market

1. Call to Order & Opening (7:01-7:07)

- a. Nathan called the meeting to order.
- b. Introductions of all present were asked for and offered.
- c. Judy Snider 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 Angie, who stated that she could speak on any number of major local and national issues. People have different views on many topics. However, it's blessings that bind us together. Angie offered a number of prayers emanating from five different cultures.

Ed offered that this was the first CRC meeting at which prayer was offered, and added that it was very much appreciated.

Nathan thanked Angie offering this new perspective on CRC work.

2. Review of Minutes for CRC Meeting of August 9, 2016 (7:10-7:10)

Nathan asked that members review and comment on distributed minutes.

Nathan noted that Richard Aguirre's name was misspelled. John will correct this error.

Nathan also asked Bryce for clarification regarding a note about CRC finances. Bryce responded that it was accurate.

ACTION: Angie moved that the minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2016 be approved. The motion was seconded by Ed and was unanimously passed by members.

3. Treasurer's Report (7:10-7:13)

Bryce noted that this month there were two payments made to Darin for his services. There was also a payment made to the Farmers' Market. The current balance in the account is \$31,510.13.

Bryce commented that interest has been earned in the Diversity Day account.

There were no questions asked of Bryce.

4. Reports and Statistics (7:13-7:20)

Darin reported that there have been no local contacts or inquiries received this month. The only contact was from the ICRC. He added that there has been no news in the past month regarding the neighbor conflict reported previously.

David commented that he believed the situation to be worse and that hard feelings are deepening. However, Rocio commented that she believes the situation to be better. David admitted that his information may be dated.

Nathan added that there is likely not more that the CRC can do in the matter.

Rocio commented that it is likely that other community issues exist, but that citizens are not aware of the CRC and the role that it might play in resolving same. Nathan followed by commenting that this is what the CRC marketing initiative is intended to address.

5. Salsa Festival Report (7:20-7:39)

Guest JoEllen Davis reported that inaugural event was successful. She noted that there may have been a conflict with First Friday volleyball tournament still ongoing on Saturday and that this may have negatively impacted afternoon attendance. It was noted that the Market now has a new Hispanic vendor, however. JoEllen commented that the Market will continue to explore ways that it might engage the Hispanic community throughout the year.

Nathan had a question regarding proper use of the terms Hispanic and Latino. Following discussion, it was agreed that the terms are interchangeable.

6. Carrying the Vision Forward Subcommittee Report (7:39-7:52)

Darin noted that the kick-off event did not happen.

The Marketing subcommittee met and agreed that promoting the CRC vision is critical. It was agreed that we can do much of the work ourselves and that we do not feel that a “big dollar” project is necessary. Therefore, the draft RFP is simple. The Committee’s objective is to effectively incorporate the CRC vision into a campaign that creates awareness in the community.

The Committee has agreed to meet monthly, and with counsel from professionals, develop various marketing tools. Angie referenced a wide variety of print, electronic and personal medias.

The Committee believes it to be important for the CRC to meet in a special session once annually, in which it will specifically review its mission, vision, goals and objectives and ensuring that all are accurate and current.

Darin asked for suggestions regarding marketing firms that should receive the RFP. Angie suggested Vala.

Action: Angie moved to approve the RFP and to circulate it among prospective marketing consultants. The motion was seconded by Bryce, with the motion then passing unanimously.

7. Representative Boards and Commissions Initiative Update (7:52-8:09)

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. Is diversity a concern? How might the CRC be helpful? Is education potentially helpful? This will be distributed in both written and electronic formats.

8. Announcements by CRC Members (8:09-8:33)

a. Nathan commented that he has spoken with the Center for Community Justice. It will charge \$75 for the first 2 hours of conflict mediation services. It will charge an additional \$75 per hour for services beyond the initial 2 hours. The fee for corporations is \$200.

Angie suggested that the CRC pay for the first 2 hours of mediation, and then equally split fees with the individual for hours beyond the initial 2. Such language will be incorporated into the MOU.

b. It was noted that the CRC meeting in October will be moved to another location TBA.

- c. Rocio commented regarding Goshen College's ENL classes. Presently, 81 students are participating 4 days per week. There is a \$300 fee. The College will be recruiting new students for the program during the Spring semester.
- d. Rocio added that she will carry the torch in Indiana's statewide torch relay on October 4.
- e. Rocio reported that Nayo Ulloa is discussing ways to make ENL more accessible to more people. She noted that the Mayor supports greater accessibility and is trying to find money to support same. She commented that Spanish language classes for non-Spanish speakers are also important.

9. Adjournment (8:33)

The next meeting of the Goshen CRC is scheduled for October 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm. The location is TBA.

Bryce moved to adjourn the CRC meeting of September 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by Angie and was unanimously passed.