

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall Annex, 204 East Jefferson 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: David Araujo, John Ferguson, Bryce Gast, Judy Snider, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer-Rempel and Angie Troyer

CRC Members Absent: Ed Ahlersmeyer, Rocio Diaz

CRC Consultant Present: Darin Short

1. Call to Order & Opening (7:10-7:32)

- a. Nathan called the meeting to order.
- b. Nate offered Judy an opportunity to introduce herself. She is a lifelong resident of Elkhart County, presently residing in Goshen. She is employed by the Concord Community Schools.
- c. Nathan asked that Commissioners review the evening's agenda. No changes were offered.
- d. The ***Opening Reflection*** was offered by Sreekala, who reviewed the history of the CRC. She noted that it started many years ago in response to a rally by the KKK. She commented about the numerous changes in Goshen's demography through the years, recalling times when she and John Stith (former Post Master and an African American) were the only minorities present at many public meetings.

The CRC was officially named as such in 2003, with former Councilman Chic Lantz securing the CRC's first City funding.

Sreekala expressed some frustration with the slow pace and incremental steps taken through the years to not solely accept diversity, but to embrace it, even as our diversity broadens with more and more minorities now residing in our community. She feels that we have regressed over the past year.

Sreekala mentioned that ComUnidad-Goshen is sponsoring a "Solidarity Day" on Wednesday, October 12.

David offered that he too fails to think often enough of Goshen's broad diversity, focusing his thoughts solely on our Latino and African American communities.

Nate added that we all get caught up in our own lives and existences and that we must be more intentional in our thoughts and behaviors.

Darin spoke of how things have changed during his tenure as Consultant to the CRC. Not only has the community changed, but so too, has the CRC. He added that it worries him that too few know the history of the CRC as related by Sreekala.

2. October Reflection (7:32-7:33)

Nate requested that Darin offer the Reflection at the CRC meeting in November.

3. Review of Minutes for CRC Meeting of September 13, 2016 (7:33-7:39)

Nathan asked that members review and comment on distributed minutes.

Numerous inaccuracies were discovered, with John pledging to make corrections and forward an accurate set of minutes to Nate for the record.

ACTION: Angie moved that the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2016 be approved, with aforementioned corrections. The motion was seconded by Bryce and was unanimously passed by members.

4. Treasurer's Report (7:39-7:41)

Bryce noted that this month there was one payment made to Darin for his services.

The current balance in the account is \$30,380.13.

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

There were no questions asked of Bryce.

5. Reports and Statistics (7:41-7:51)

Darin explained the purpose of the CRC phone line, and that it is a vehicle via which the CRC can accept inquiries, complaints, etc. He also commented about the CRC email address.

During the past month, we have received a number of calls from state agencies that are similarly purposed to the CRC informing us of their activities and events.

He added that the CRC was also contacted by Ray Hunsberger, who is interested in CRC membership.

We also received an inquiry from a Goshen College student regarding immigration paperwork.

There was also a call which was dropped before the entire message could be retrieved. Darin is unaware of the nature and purpose of the call and will try to retrieve the message.

Nate reported that a tenant of his reported that his residence was egged, that fire crackers were detonated, and that his *Black Lives Matter* sign was taken. He opted not to contact police.

Judy commented that Justice For All Of Goshen is producing yard signage that welcomes all people.

6. Representative Boards and Commissions Initiative Update (7:51-7:55)

Nate reported that the Goshen Chamber of Commerce wanted some changes made to the survey before its distribution. He is confident that all will be successfully worked through and that the survey will be distributed within the next month.

7. Nominating 2017 Officers (7:55-8:04)

Nate talked of the importance to identify officers to preside during 2017. He formed a Nominating Committee to present a slate for consideration. Participating on the Committee are Sreekala, Angie and Judy. The slate of 2017 officers must be finalized in December and voted on in January.

Nate stressed that he will not Chair the CRC again in 2017.

Nate will prepare Job Descriptions for each CRC officer position.

Presently, in addition to Nate serving as Chair, Ed serves as Vice Chairman, Bryce is Treasurer and John is Secretary.

A number of Commissioners are serving out unexpired terms of members who have left the CRC. There were questions as to the term balances of these Commissioners. Nate will investigate.

8. Carrying the Vision Forward Subcommittee Report (8:04-7:35)

a. Marketing – Recommendations From RFPs

Darin explained the process, adding that 2 proposals were received – one from Vala and the other from R3. The Marketing Committee met on October 6 to review written proposals and again on October 10 to

interview candidates. Vala attended, but R3 representatives had a conflict and could not attend. Rather, R3 responded to questions in writing.

Darin reported that the recommendation of the Committee is that R3 be awarded the contract. He added that the decision was not unanimous among Committee members however.

Angie was asked to explain the reasons for her preference that Vala be awarded the contract and she articulately presented her rationale in support of Vala.

John, who originally favored Vala, provided rationale for his change of heart after having reviewed R3's written responses to Darin's questions.

Sreekala stated her preference that the CRC retain its present logo. It is known, understood and respected. Darin responded that the current logo will be retained and that in the current process, we are seeking help in branding the Vision initiative.

Action: Bryce moved that the recommendation offered by the Marketing Committee (that R3 be awarded the contract) be approved. The motion was seconded by David and was unanimously passed.

There was additional discussion that not all of the products proposed by R3 were requested or needed. Comments were made that the CRC would engage in a negotiation with R# before any agreement is executed.

Action: Angie moved that negotiations with R3 be limited to the production of a logo and tag line, and with R3 representatives also attending each of the CRC meetings in 2017. She added that this agreement will not exceed \$2,000. This motion was seconded by Bryce and was passed unanimously.

b. Kick-Off Event:

Darin again provided background information for new Commissioners. The Kick-Off event is tentatively planned for late March, 2017. Tentative activities and speakers include:

- Presentations from George Smucker (founding CRC member), former mayor Allan Kauffman and Richard Aguirre.
- The solicitation from Event attendees of ideas for Initiative projects, activities and events
- Receive and record the reactions of participants to the vision statement

Venues being considered for the event include the Spohn Building ballroom and the Shanklin Park Pavilion.

Event invitations will be directed to such as neighborhood associations, past CRC members, the Vision Committee, local elected officials, ComUnidad, ministers and churches, etc.

Marketing materials will be developed when more is finalized.

The planning committee meets again on November 14.

Nate reminded Commissioners that the Taste of Goshen will be held the first Friday in May. It will be a busy Spring, 2017.

9. Humans of Goshen 2.0 Proposal (8:35-9:07)

Angie presented her thoughts regard the Humans of Goshen project. This project was initially launched by the CRC and her proposal will expand same. She distributed a detailed concept paper, which was discussed.

Angie intends to pilot the project using an unpaid intern from Goshen College. This student will receive academic credit for his/her efforts.

Action: John moved that the CRC proceed with a pilot project during the first quarter of 2017, that the student intern receive no compensation for his/her efforts, that Angie serve as the CRC point of contact for the intern during the pilot, and that the CRC review results of the pilot before deciding to proceed further. The motion was seconded by Sreekala and was unanimously passed.

10. Next Meeting Date (9:07-9:10)

Several Commissioners have conflicts with the regularly scheduled meeting date in November.

Following discussion, it was decided that the CRC will meet next on Monday, November 14, 2016. This meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Goshen City Hall.

11. For the Good of the CRC (9:10-9:13)

Darin commented that he will present his proposed 2017 contract for CRC review at the November meeting. He added that he will propose that he devote more time to CRC activities each week than at present.

12. Adjournment (9:13)

The next meeting of the Goshen CRC is scheduled for November 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Goshen's City Hall.

Action: Sreekala moved to adjourn the CRC meeting of October 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by Angie and was unanimously passed.