

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of the City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 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, Evan Miller, Nathan Mateer-Rempel and Angie Troyer

**CRC Members Absent:** Ed Ahlersmeyer, Sreekala Rajagopalan and Judy Snider

**CRC Consultant Present:** Darin Short

**Others Attending:** There were no visitors in attendance.

#### 1. Call to Order & Opening (7:05 - 7:06)

- a. Angie called the meeting to order.
- b. Angie asked that Commissioners review the evening's agenda, requesting any additions or corrections. None were offered.
- c. Angie asked if any Commissioners had opening comments or thoughts to offer. There were none.

#### 2. Review Minutes of March: CRC Members (7:06 – 7:07)

Commissioners briefly reviewed minutes of the CRC meeting of March 14, 2017.

**ACTION:** *Evan moved to approve minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate and was unanimously passed.*

#### 3. April Reflection: John Ferguson (7:07 – 7:22)

John commented regarding his seemingly very insulated existence as a Caucasian male. He spoke of hearing comments at each CRC meeting regarding the situations that so many Latinos, African Americans and others must manage each and every day, adding that were he not a CRC member, he would be completely unaware of these situations. He asked how the collective "we" bring people together so as to honestly and openly talk.

David reported an incident in which he and his family were uncomfortably stared at during a recent Goshen dining experience. David also commented that the staff treated the family very disrespectfully. He offered these comments as yet another example of situations that Latinos must manage themselves through.

**ACTION:** *Judy Snider will offer a Reflection during the CRC's May, 2017 meeting.*

#### 4. Sign Principles – Darin (7:22 – 7:24)

Darin circulated the CRC statement of Principles discussed at the March meeting. Commissioners in attendance signed the document.

#### 5. For the Good of the CRC – Floor Open for Public Comment (7:24 – 7:25)

There were no comments offered.

#### 6. Indiana Consortium of CRCs – Budget and Scholarship – Angie (7:25 – 7:31)

Angie reported that the state Consortium is offering a scholarship. The winner of this essay contest will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The CRC will publicize the availability of the scholarship and will forward notice of its availability to Goshen and Bethany Christian High Schools.

CRC members also briefly discussed the payment of annual dues to the Consortium.

**ACTION:** *Nate moved to pay the \$50 annual dues, with Evan seconding the motion. The motion passed the CRC unanimously.*

#### 7. Arts on the Millrace – Angie (7:31 – 7:34)

Angie reported that she will be present at this June 17 event. She will have CRC and Humans of Goshen materials. She asked about the appropriateness of holding a "Cookie Chat" at this event.

#### 8. Treasurer's Report – Judy (7:34 - 7:36)

Nate distributed financial reports for the month, noting that the CRC budget is now recorded accurately. He added that the only expenditures for the month were to Darin.

Angie commented that she will begin work on the 2018 budget in June.

#### 9. Reports and Statistics – All and Darin (7:36 – 7:47)

Darin reported having been contacted by a teacher at Goshen Middle School. His class of 8<sup>th</sup> graders is starting a project regarding the nature and tone of community discourse and conversation. Students are selecting topics to be discussed. The teacher inquired whether the CRC would be interested in participating. Following discussion, CRC members agreed that such participation is OK, but that comments will be restricted to furthering the CRC's mission and will not include comments that could be political in nature.

Nate asked Darin if he's had a chance to speak with the Mayor regarding comments offered last month by the CRC's guest. Darin responded that no, he had not been able to do so as yet.

Angie reported on the disappearance of Black Lives Matter and We're Glad You're Our Neighbor signs from the area surrounding Goshen Hospital.

#### 10. Taste of Goshen - Darin (7:47 – 8:15)

**ACTION: David moved to recess the meeting briefly while Darin attended to a personal matter. The motion was seconded by Nate and was unanimously passed.**

Following Darin's return, the CRC conversation was resumed at 8:00.

Darin reported that there are 7 confirmed Taste vendors and that he is contacting one more. David commented that he could identify additional vendors should the CRC desire that.

Darin continues to work on the layout for the evening. He is also ordering additional CRC T-shirts. He will also develop a work schedule for the evening.

Nate offered that he has a considerable amount of propane that he will offer for use.

There will be no music this year. Comments were also offered that CRC is uncertain whether high schoolers will perform a flash dance or not.

Darin reviewed the Taste budget with members, commenting that the Grand Rental figures are preliminary but that they won't change significantly.

**ACTION: Evan moved to approve the Taste of Goshen budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Angie and was then unanimously passed.**

#### 11. "Strategic Planning – Angie/Evan (8:15 – 8:56)

Angie recited the CRC mission so as to launch this discussion. Evan commented that he, Darin and Phil Thomas had met to generally discuss the purpose of the CRC. Evan posed a number of questions discussed, including 1) What is it that the CRC does? 2) What are our goals? 3) How does the CRC "operationalize its mission?" 4) Is the CRC relevant?

During their conversation, Phil had noted a number of ways that the CRC might "operationalize the mission" and truly affect local change. Discussed as potential avenues for CRC action and ways to focus CRC efforts were 1) Mayor Stutsman's "City of Kindness" initiative, 2) "World Cafes" in which small groups of people assemble to discuss a single topic, 3) "Question of the Day" in which patrons at a local establishment (i.e. The Electric Brew) might wear an armband, signaling to others that the wearer is interested and will to discuss the identified "Question."

It was noted that some of the data collected during the Vision planning process might offer a current baseline regarding citizen attitudes. The CRC also has received feedback during the recently held "Kick-Off Event." (Note: These comments are not yet compiled.)

Angie asked if Darin and Evan might develop a series of questions to guide future CRC discussions. These might include such as:

- a. Where is a potential community "flash point" - the occurrence of which would lead to community unrest?
- b. What are the CRC's action items?
- c. What "products" can we identify and measure/report against?
- d. What other resources exist that can be applied to the discussion/planning process?

- e. What are the CRC's goals?
- f. What will the CRC do, with whom and by when?

Evan suggested that for the coming months, the first hour of each CRC meeting be devoted to answering these questions and to strategic thinking and planning.

**ACTION: Evan and Darin will meet to plan said strategic discussions.**

Evan inquired as to Lizzy Diaz's application status to become a CRC Commissioner. Angie reported that the City Council is now considering Lizzy's candidacy and she is optimistic that the CRC will have a new Commissioner in May,

Angie also reported that the Council is adopting a new format for the recording of meeting proceedings. The new format will include both digitized and written formats. David offered that such literal transcription of comments might actually inhibit conversation. The CRC will learn more before taking action regarding this new record keeping format.

#### **12. Reflection (8:56 – 9:00)**

Angie asked Commissioners their opinions of the new Agenda structure. She wants to offer opportunities for guest input and comments at various places during meetings. She added that for May, the Agenda will offer an early opportunity for guests to speak, followed by the strategic discussion. She will add other opportunities for public comment later in the Agenda as well.

#### **13. Announcements, Closing Comments and Reflections – All (9:00 – 9:01)**

Nate commented that he is looking forward to receiving a record of patron comments offered at the "Kick-Off Event."

Nate also reminded Angie of the need to develop the CRC's annual report to the City.

#### **14. Adjournment (9:01)**

The next meeting of the Goshen CRC is scheduled for May 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Goshen's City Hall.

**Action: Evan moved to adjourn the CRC meeting of April 11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Nate and was unanimously passed.**