

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION Tuesday, Nov 14th, 7p. Goshen City Hall

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, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer Rempel, David Araujo, Angie Troyer, Judy Snider, Lizzy Diaz

CRC consultant: Darin Short

Guests: Nayo Ulloa, Greg Korte, Kendra Yoder, Kate, Alexa

#### 1. Call to Order & Opening-Angie calls the meeting to order at 7:01

a. introduce visitors and new members: Darin introduces Kendra, Kate and Alexa who are working on the bystander training initiative along with member Lizzy Diaz. Angie introduces Nayo, in attendance to report on the CRC funded Encuentro in the Alley.

b. review the agenda: Angie makes a motion to add Encuentro on the Alley report. Nate second. Motion carries. Angie additionally moves to add Darin's contract to the agenda. Ed second. Motion carries. Nate moves we approve the agenda as amended. Lizzy second. Motion carries.

c. opening reflection by CRC members: Angie offers a meditation on listening, with emphasis on the internal (personal) environment). She encourages commissioners to ask themselves the following questions/prompts. 'I'm happiest when...', 'How do I align that happiness with my values and my goals?' 'I experience things through...' And finally, 'how do I listen to my Self'? The expanded concept being that honest self-awareness is foundational to our work.

#### 2. Dec Reflection: Ed

#### 3. For the Good of the CRC (public comment)-no comments were offered

#### 4. Encuentro in the Alley: Nayo reports on the CRC sponsored arts event of October 21, 2017. The event featuring multiple expression of Latin American art and culture was attended by 200-300 people. Grant receipts and anonymous donations amounted to \$1780, and expenditures were \$1163. Current plans are to use some of the excess funds for artist recognition and retain the balance for use in a future event. Funds were primarily used to pay modest stipends to dancers and musicians as well as to fund advertising.

Ed asks about stand out observations. Nayo cites the diverse crowds, the collaboration from high school students, in particular a painting of a figure composed of both the Mexican and United States flags, and contribution of Latino youth to traditional art forms.

David asks if the event will continue in future years. He states he is hopeful that it will.

Prompted by a question from Sreekala, Nayo offers an historical perspective on the names Hispanic and Latino, illuminating their colonial roots while stating that Latino is probably the safest to use if one is unable to ask an individual's preference.

5. Member Recruitment goals/ideas: Discussion of protocol around appointment of new members includes the appropriateness of recommending candidates to appointing bodies. Angie asks Greg Korte to speak about his interest in serving on the CRC. Greg indicates his desire is to continue to make Goshen a place where all people feel welcome. A 50 year resident of Goshen he has borne witness to a great deal of change in the area.

Angie offers overview of planned events and initiatives in 2018. Other members offer their understanding of attendance, subcommittee duties, etc.

Lizzy is meeting with two prospective members later this week.

Darin continues to touch base with Michelle Fanfair Steury regarding service on the Commission

6. Subcommittee report: For future nominating committee consideration, Angie offers that her moving plans are not certain and she is willing to serve as Chair

By Stander Training-Darin introduces a training module that Goshen College has used in bystander training for sexual violence with their students. The CRC could use this as a template for bystander training in racist aggression. A recent meeting had the subcommittee reviewing the module and provide suggestions for changes. Next action includes contacting Regina Shands-Stoltzfus to help adapt the presentation to racial aggression in the month of January 2018.

Ed offers that we may wish to use a more general approach and avoid being centered on race with the bystander trainings. Discussion continues about the merits of either a racism centric, or general approach. Darin will contact Regina and Kendra about a potential change of direction in plan, and the process will move forward from there.

Marketing We have to date received no responses to our RFP, and the group discusses follow-up with targeted firms, and community members with contacts that may have interest in content creation for CRC web presence. Action in the coming month will be continuing follow up.

Community Conversations Meeting on community conversation is yet to be scheduled

#### 7. Reports and Statistics

- No complaints were received via phone or email since the prior meeting.
- Past contact with a community member regarding offensive painting on a neighbor's sign was followed up.
- Denny Muhammed from the Gary Civil Rights Commission called to ask us how many employment related discrimination cases we heard in 2016.
- Cynthia Murphy from IUSB, called to alert the Commission to an event in support of Dreamers
- Gregory Wilson with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission emailed to set up an appointment with the CRC which Darin took and enjoyed discussion about the future direction of the ICRC.
- Darin also contacted Chief Branson in an attempt to reschedule a CRC summit with the Chief.

#### 8. Consultant's Contract:

Darin provides an overview of his reporting of duties for 2017 to date, highlighting the hours worked, and tasks linked to the Memorandum of Understanding for 2017. Nate and Angie will work to distribute evaluation forms for Commissioners in the coming weeks.

Darin proposes that we use the same contract as last year, members are encouraged to review the 2017 contract and request changes prior to next month's meeting.

9. Review of October's minutes: David noted that not all members were in attendance as written. Nate moves that we approve October minutes as corrected. Judy second. Carried.
10. Treasurer's report: Judy shares that the Clerk-Treasurer's report matches her accounting of our balances, and that everything looks to be in order. Nate moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, Angie second. Carried.
11. Announcements by CRC members closing comments and reflections the meeting
  - The CRC Principles are adopted by the City Council
  - Angie notes that the Goshen ID program is underway at the Center for Healing and Hope, and applications are being accepted.
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Adjournment- Motion to adjourn Nate/Angie/carried. Next meeting is December 12th, 2017, 7p at City Hall