

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 13th, 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: David Araujo, Glenn Null, Evan Miller, Ed Ahlersmeyer, Lizzy Diaz, Sreekala Rajagopalan. CRC members absent: Michele Fanfair-Steury, Jose Rocha, Clarence Michael Hogan

Others present: Mayor Jeremy Stutsman and CRC consultant, Darin Short

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm and it was decided that CRC consultant Darin Short would take minutes.
 - a. It was noted that there were no visitors.
 - b. Upon review of the agenda a motion was made by Ed A. to move the agenda item "For Good of the CRC (public comment)" to item number 10 and add a new item number 9, "Discussion about how to respond to urgent requests". Sreekala R. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Sreekala Rajagopalan provided the monthly reflection. It was noted that David Araujo will share during the April meeting.
3. Darin provided an update regarding the Taste of Goshen which is scheduled for Friday, May 4.

Darin provided a preliminary budget for the event. The budget for all intents and purposes is very similar to the 2017 actual expenses. The CRC will need to approve the budget during the April meeting.

Additional discussion included the following questions and comments:

- a. Glenn: Can we move other vendors further away? They were a barrier to movement last year.
- b. Evan: We should ask vendors to be sure to also have a small plate option.
- c. Sreekala: She might have tickets, hairnets.
- d. Darin: Nate will set up power and Glenn was asked to supervise power following set up.
- e. Glenn: Because of all of the cash on hand we should have support from the police at the end of the event.
- f. Based on demand during the 2017 event we should have two Square Cash devices for debit/credit payments.
- g. The Post and/or The Elkhart County Clubhouse might be able to provide volunteers
- h. Can we give all of the volunteers a t-shirt?
- i. Ed: Let's get a new design for the t-shirt for 2019
- j. Darin: Prices for food might need to be increased but ultimately the food vendors will decide.

- k. Glenn: Is there a southern cooking option? At this point no.
- l. In 2017 people were asking about the Mexican ice cream vendor.

4. Planning for CRC Retreat

Evan asked if we should have this conversation since 3 new commissioners are not in attendance. We discussed the scheduling. Those in attendance identified April 14 as a date that worked. We would meet from 1:00 – 4:00 in the afternoon.

It was determined we should call a special meeting to discuss retreat planning since several commissioners were missing. The group decided to meet March 27 at 6:30 for 60 minutes at City Hall. Because this is a special meeting we need a sign on the door. Questions to be addressed during this meeting include:

- a. What do we as a Commission need?
- b. What are you willing to contribute?
- c. What would you need for a successful retreat?

5. Subcommittee reports:

- a. By Stander Training – No update. Darin is in the process of scheduling a time for the planning group to meet.
- b. Marketing – No update.

Evan mentioned it will be important to see progress on these two items in April.

- #### 6. Reports and Statistics –
- Darin noted there was no activity with the CRC voicemail. An email did come from Andrew Hartzler, Goshen College Prof of Accounting on behalf of students who went downtown to complete a small assignment during the week of March 5. The email simply requested a return call so that Mr. Hartzler could share a concern that he had about the students' experience. Darin called Mr. Hartzler on March 9. The assignment involved asking downtown business owners some basic questions about how to run a business and what some of the challenges were in doing so. The students walked into retail businesses in groups of 3-5 to ask these questions. One group of 3, comprised entirely of young men (Chinese, Hispanic, Afro Caribbean), went into a particular retail store and were directed to speak with the owner who said he was not interested in answering their questions and asked them to leave. The entire class then met up at The Brew as planned after they were done doing the interviews. The group of 3 young men (i.e, the Chinese, Hispanic and Afro Caribbean) told the others what happened. The group of students as a whole wondered if this might be a case of discrimination. So they decided to send in two white male students to see if the response would be the same; it wasn't - the owner was glad to meet with them and answer their questions. Mr. Hartzler then contacted the store owner to have a conversation about this situation. The store owner indicated he has experienced many times people walking in to the store to take surveys or make sales calls and he often turns these people away. He thought that was the purpose of the first 3 group of young men which is why he turned them away. Although Mr. Hartzler indicated it was not clear whether the store owner's intentions were discriminatory he did say the conversation went well and in the end the store owner offered to meet with the 3 students who were initially turned away.

7. Both the January and February minutes were presented for review and approval. The group decided the current format of each of these sets of minutes was not conducive for review and approval.

As a result, Ed moved to postpone adopting these minutes. Glenn seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Darin was tasked with re-formatting both of these sets of minutes so that they can be reviewed and approved during the April meeting.

8. Treasurer's report was presented by Evan. It was noted the numbers did not line up. Mayor Stutsman and Evan will look into.
9. Discussion about how to respond to urgent requests brought to the CRC's attention by Sreekala. A suggestion was made to have a subcommittee develop a process for how to respond when urgent requests arise. David indicated that we can't do everything and that a process will help to narrow our focus. It was suggested that the CRC develop criteria for what the CRC will respond to. If a special meeting is called there must be appropriate public notice. If a subcommittee would be developed to handle such situations, the subcommittee must bring any recommendation to the entire group before taking anything public. Evan suggested a formalized process might not be necessary since individual CRC members can voice concerns with any of the CRC members as long as it's a quorum. It was asked whether anyone can call an emergency meeting. It was determined that only the chair can call an emergency meeting. When a special meeting needs to be called Jo Lung in the Mayor's office should be notified 48 hours in advance so she can let the media know. As a way to help any person volunteering on behalf of the City, Ed indicated a volunteer guide for serving with the City is necessary. Mayor Stutsman indicated he will be glad to take our suggestions for such a guide which can then be shared with other departments/commissions for their input.

In the end, it was determined a formalized process isn't necessary at this point.

10. For the Good of the CRC (public comment)

Glenn indicated public notice of CRC meetings should be timely and that receiving agenda the day of the meeting is not appropriate.

Sreekala asked to have everyone's contact info. Darin noted he was already in the process of gathering this information and that he will share this with everyone.

11. Ed moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22. Evan seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

Next meeting is April 10th, 2018 at 7p at City Hall

Future Agenda Item: Community Conversations