

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Monday, April 12, 2021–7 p.m.

Goshen City Council Chambers, 111 E. Jefferson St.; Zoom



PRESENT: Cathie Cripe, Glenn Null, Ed Groff, Megan Eichorn, Mislenny Moreno and AJ Delgadillo

ON ZOOM: Michele Fanfair-Steury (audio only), Sreekala Rajagopalan and Judith Davis

Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Minutes accepted.

CRC Community Building:

Getting comfortable: What is something you do on a hot day?

Getting Uncomfortable: Discussing a contentious term. CRC members provided words they believe people are uncomfortable with. Those words are:

- Politically correct
- Fake News
- _____ discrimination
- Racist actions
- White privilege
- Marginalized

Unfinished business:

Sundown Town Marker— AJ had not heard back from Lee Roy in terms of revisions. The CRC officers talked about the marker this month. There was talk about getting meaningful community feedback. Also, about defining why the community feels the need to have this marker—to name history, to name that it wasn't the beginning or end of racism in Goshen, to say that it was wrong and shouldn't be repeated, and that it has long term effects that are here to stay. It was agreed the marker needs to be inviting. If the marker goes up and further excludes people who were excluded by the original practice, we are not doing much. This needs to lead to meaningful education, and our goals must be larger than a self-congratulation. AJ polled the CRC to know whether members wanted to continue supporting efforts for revising and ultimately placing the marker.

The commissioners, without taking action, agreed they are supportive of the efforts as long as they get to see the revised versions.

Treasurer's report— No new donations, no expenditures. Treasurer's report is accepted verbally.

Council liaison report — Nothing to report.

Director's report— As the City reopens, the CRC needs to begin thinking about how to plan for events that were successful in the community prior to the pandemic. Activities being worked on were:

- Bystander training
- Community Conversations
- Taste of Goshen

AJ also has been working on revising the language and procedures for complaint response. It is important that a standard form on how to respond to complaints to know what to expect from each

other, but also so the community can know what to expect when they file a complaint. He has received feedback from commissioners and is waiting for approval from the legal department.

AJ is also revising a complaint form to allow people submit a complaint instead of bringing it directly to an individual commissioner.

Finally, AJ also has been working to build a Diversity Equity and Inclusion coalition. By creating a network, and help them share resources and notes, they will each individually be able to accomplish more; this is another way of bolstering the work of the CRC. So far, AJ has reached out to Goshen Community Schools, Bridge: Anti-Discrimination Network, Goshen College and Goshen Ministerial Association.

New Business:

Election of Treasurer

Cathie opened nominations.

Nominating committee (Chaired by Sreekala) moved to nominate Ed Groff

Nominations closed. Vocal unanimous vote for Ed to be treasurer.

Ed is elected as CRC Treasurer for the remainder of 2021.

Biennial Diversity Statement— There's an idea to note the changing demographics in Goshen and to take a moment to explicitly name the benefit that diversity brings to our community every two years. AJ asked the CRC if there is interest. Support was voiced by all members present.

Active Bystander Training— Is active bystander training something they are dedicated enough to spent the extra commitment to make sure they get it right—be it to train someone within the CRC or bring a professional trainer.

Closing comments:

Glenn reflected on the end of April—the Palm Sunday tornadoes, and the anniversary of an accident.

Ed sat on the Homelessness Coalition and was impressed with the work done there.

Motion to adjourn. Motion by Glenn. Seconded by Sreekala.

Motion: PASSES unanimously.