

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monday, September 13th, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Goshen City Council Chamber - **111 East Jefferson St.**



CRC members

Present: Cathie Cripe, Malik Cato, Ed Groff, Glenn Null

On Zoom: Sreekala , Michele Fanfair-Steury

Also Present: AJ Delgadillo (CRC Director
Steve Bermudez (Youth Adviser)

Absent: Megan Eichorn (Council Liaison)

Resigned: Judith Davis

Meeting called to order (7:02 pm)

Call to Order & Opening

Review Minutes from August 9, 2021: Amendment made to (Announcements by CRC members, closing comments category (Cathie Cripe agreed to be Chair Person for the remainder of the year. **(Approved Unanimously)**)

Review of the CRC Mission and Principles: – Read aloud

Introduction of CRC members and visitors – Welcomed Youth Adviser: Steve Bermudez

Review the agenda: Ed Groff nominated Michelle Fanfair-Steury as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the year, Glenn Null; seconded the nomination. **(Approved Numinously)**

New Business

- **Reflection on September – First Friday:**
 - a.) A positive reaction by Ed Groff, and would like to continue attending the First Friday venue to maintain our presence as the CRC Group. The public took an interest in a conversation and took the time to fill out surveys. Two items need to be updated; the tablecloth and the stand need some adjustments to maintain a better presence.
 - b.) Glenn Null & Cathie mentioned the location near the commercial setting, and how loud the band was; this was not an appropriate place for the CRC booth. Being closer to the Not-for-profit group seems more appropriate.
 - c.) AJ – suggested having only one shift at the next First Friday.

1. Commissioner Job Description Review:

- a.) Presented by Ed Groff; this is the first year the CRC has hired a Director, and this clarifies the relationship we can aspire to have between the commission and the director. Ed feels like the main point is to recognize the commission as sort of an advisory world. We are not in a position of detailing specific kinds of things that would require voting action on part of the whole commission, and that's the basic spirit behind this.
- b.) AJ edited and completed the Commissioner's Job description, the final document with Ed's work that was done and the 2018 job description, and while taking all things into account, how the commission will function with a director now, being part of a reflection of what is, and a part of aspiration of what we need to do to move forward. A finalized Commissioner's job description will reflect what a commissioner does, and what is expected of a commissioner. This document will give a clear point to refer to as we are trying to recruit applicants. Currently, there are three Vacancies, and it's good practice to have applicants in the "bank" as well.
- c.) Glenn Null provided concern regarding the last two sentences in the Commissioners job description. It comes down to the Chairperson and or the CDR should be allowed to call a meeting, making it more transparent. Realistically there can be no private meetings other than the executive because we are a board that has to meet in public. . It is more important to have more than one person able to call meetings or adjust the agendas. Cathie suggested a change to; The Executive Board will meet when determined necessary, and the CRD and Chairperson will determine when the group will meet. Aj agreed to do some additional revisions, and then follow up with the group for the final version.
- d.) Commissioner time commitment is now eight to ten hours per month, the group agreed.

For the Good of CRC- Community Comment

Reports and Statistics

- Council Liaison Report – Absent – nothing new.
- Director's Report – Mostly working on subcommittee items and scheduling, to include Mayor's office items.
- **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - **Sundown Town Marker Subcommittee (Cathie, Glenn, Sreekala, Steve)**

- a.) We have a survey that was handed out on First Friday. We have both paper copies and virtual copies. We received 20 paper responses with 490 virtual responses. The responses are about the ideas we anticipated, people were very glad this is being discussed, that we are being honest about it, some people think that we should not spend taxpayers' money, as well as to just leave it alone.
- b.) We are having an in-person focus group conversation on September 30, 2021, and we will have one additional in-person group discussion, which is not yet scheduled. There will be no registration. We will start with an introduction and then set our expectations for what the evening will be, which is a primary way for the CRC to collect comments. Then moving into a brief time of presentation. Allen, Leroy, and Dan will describe what their vision looks like and what they think is important, and from there splitting into smaller groups that will have facilitators. In the end, an open mic for sharing things that surprised them, things they heard someone else say, or things they heard repeated in their group, but only to share what others have said.
- c.) AJ will rethink how the CRC takes notes at the open community conversations. Notes will be taken during the open mic. Glenn suggested having cards for the public to write down their final comments completing the group discussion.

- **Community Conversation Subcommittee** (Cathie, Michele, Malik)

- a.) We are thinking about starting community conversations similar to what we did in 2019, and early 2020 for next Spring. In the fall, we will try to organize small groups that will meet for several meetings throughout the Fall. Having multiple smaller groups, we think will give us the agility to better navigate the changing Covid restrictions and different levels of threat. Smaller groups give better opportunities to meet at someone's house, or smaller venues.

- **Special Events Subcommittee:** (Michele, Sreekala, Malik)

- a.) We have not yet met due to Covid. Are there any of the current commissioners willing to join this committee, one vacancy is open? Michele suggested that the committee keep their eyes and ears open for any upcoming events in the community, in which we could tag-team and do something.

Announcements by CRC members, closing comments, reflections on the meeting

- A) Festival de Independencia Event September 17, 2021, at 4:00 – Emails were sent to all CRC members.
- B) A reminder about the CRC Retreat and filling out the “cultural diversity self-assessment” form or you can just bring it with you. Forms were sent out in July via email.
- C) A reminder of the Sundown Town Marker public meeting at Schrock Pavilion 7-9 pm.
- D) Ed Groff volunteered to write the “thank you letter” to Judith Davis. He will include the letter in an email to the CRC group.
- E) It was confirmed that Judith Davis submitted an email of resignation.

Motion: The CRC acknowledges and accepts the resignation from Judith Davis.

Motion by: Glenn Null, seconded by: Ed Groff (**Approved Numinously**)

Motion: to adjourn by (Glenn Null, second by Sreekala Rajagopalan)

Adjourn (8:30 pm)