

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monday, October 11, 2021 – 7 p.m.

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



Present: Malik Cato, Cathie Cripe, Glenn Null

On Zoom: Sreekala Rajagopalan, Michele Fanfair-Steury

Also Present: AJ Delgadillo (CRC Director)

Absent: Megan Eichorn (Council Liaison) and Ed Groff:

Steve Bermudez (Youth Advisor)

Meeting called to order: 7:05 pm

Call to Order & Opening

Review Minutes from September 13, 2021, & Current Treasurer's Report:

(Approved Unanimously).

Review of the CRC Mission and Principles - **Read aloud by the group**

Introduction of CRC members and **visitors:** Lori Arnold, 615 S. Main, Rob Rader, 908 S 10th Street, and Heather Bridger-Ulloa, 1107 S 7th Street, residents of Goshen, IN.

Review the agenda **(Accepted by consent)**

New Business

1. **Reflections on Independence Festival:** No members of the CRC were able to attend. Based on the information given to Cathie Cripe; Mr. Everett Thomas shared that the turnout was exceptional.
2. **Reflections on the Sundown Town Public Opinion Meeting:**
 - a) Malik Cato expressed his pleasure to be included in voicing his concerns and opinions, at the meeting, for him it was a real eye-opener. He expressed ideas for a better outcome with conversational tactics, better to have small groups, and designated note-taker (familiar with topics at hand). The Sundown Town Marker public opinion meeting was a learning opportunity in variant ways to close the gap of communication, to bring people together in conversation, and to reach some kind of understanding. Malik expressed concerns about how to manage the crowd appropriately. He suggested having some ground rules in place at the start of the meetings, stating if individuals are non-compliant with anyone being disrupted they will be asked to leave, etc.

- b) Glen Null expressed having small groups of 4-5 in place of 12 people at a table. More table room was needed to keep from having cross-conversations and potential interruptions; helping to keep the table conversations flowing. Mutual feelings that the oral discussion from presenters took too long, causing some guests to leave early.
- c) AJ affirmed that the way the presentation came out was not his original plan, he had asked the presenters to give a (Brief history on how the Marker came to be), what were the goals for the new Marker? He had not planned on a sermon that we got.
- d) Cathie Cripe – She too felt the presentation felt like a lecture and it was too long. “John Weaver”) had something to say, and it was very valuable. Cathie was pleased overall; that people were having good conversations and expressing themselves openly. CRC’s goal is to meet, discuss and share one’s feelings and thoughts without judgment. Have a limited time for a guest to speak.

3. Reflections on CRC Retreat:

- a) Cathie Cripe – Stated, that when she goes to a retreat, or seminar if she takes one thing away from it; it was time well spent. She enjoyed the “Marshmallow Test”, which really influenced her.
- b) Glenn Null – He too found the “Marshmallow” method was interesting. Regarding seating; Glenn would have preferred to have the seating much closer, he had a difficult time hearing.
- c) Malik Cato - Malik enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know one another. Studies and examples were great to have to look at and have a discussion on it. It was helpful to Malik that the Retreat came before the “Sundown Town Marker” public opinion meeting. The “Marshmallow” method was a useful reminder to be more mindful and learn something new.
- d) AJ – He was very pleased with how the Retreat went with the information we were able to cover along with the “team-building” including some strategic planning. AJ informed the group that “Michele Fanfair-Steury” had left the meeting, no voting will be allowed due to a lack of a quorum. We made a group of (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) “SWOT” and so we identified them. AJ would like to take that list and figure out what action items make sense for them, and then think of those actions in terms; what is the size of payoff if we do, or what would the losses be if we did nothing while thinking of the time frame involved.

Reports and Statistics

1. **Council Liaison Report: (Megan Eichorn) Absent** - Noting new to report.
2. **Director’s Report:** AJ has spent most of his time preparing for the Public opinion meeting and the recent Retreat. Since the Public Opinion meeting, the pole has closed, he has spent time on the “online comments” categorizing them into what theme is coming up. There were 250 comments from the Pole.

3. Subcommittee Reports

- a.) Sundown Town Marker Subcommittee (Cathie, Glenn, Sreekala, and Steve) Nothing to report this month. A recommendation report will be available next month.
- b.) Community Conversation subcommittee (Cathie, Michele, Malik) No meetings have been scheduled for 2021.
- c.) Special Events Subcommittee (Michele, Sreekala, Malik) Nothing to report, no meetings have been scheduled for 2021.

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

- **Guest speaker:** Heather Bridger-Ulloa, 1107 S 7th Street, Goshen, IN
 - a.) **Subject:** To have Goshen officially recognize Indigenous Peoples Day, First Citizen’s Day, First Nations Day, Encuentra, and Dia Del Dos Mundo’s. Cities across the county are making the Indigenous Peoples’ Day a reality for the towns through the official Proclamation saying we recognize today’s Indigenous People’s Day and want to honor and recognize the Indigenous groups.
 - b.) **Vision:** Include people with different backgrounds because that is what we have in the Goshen community. It is important to have young people involved, students that are learning our history today. Heather thinks there would be great enthusiasm in having some kind of educational aspect with learning, teaching Indigenous Peoples cultures and traditions. {If Youth Advisor, Steve Bermudez could take part in introducing the idea with the student body, could enhance the outcome. Heather’s daughter and classmates would be interested in participating.
- 1) **Comments:** Glenn Null agrees the concept is good, realistically history was written by the “victors”. We need to acknowledge the Indigenous People, he feels it's important that the CRC gets involved to carry this out. He would like to see the CRC work on a resolution soon. (History is history; good, bad, or ugly and we need to learn from it so that we don’t repeat it).
- **Guest Speaker: Rod Rader**, 908 S 10th Street, Goshen, IN. Heather Bridger-Ulloa commented: we are living on someone else’s ground. He spoke against the injustice to the fact; that something was taken and that there was an injustice done to the Indians. In his opinion; the idea that Christopher Columbus was a criminal or something worse is just a battle of popular opinion.
- **Guest Speaker: Lori Arnold**, 615 S. Main, Goshen, IN. Comments: Lori attended the “Sundown Town Marker” public meeting. God forbid the “conservatives” have a voice. Former Mayor Allen Kauffman stated he does not like; Racism, bigot, Anti-LGBTQ, she feels there is no equality, and voices are not being heard. The conservative residents are

living in fear of their fellow neighbors, right here in their community. Lori stated she sees a need to have some conservatives added to the CRC commission to bring different solutions and problem-solving ideas. People in our community are afraid of each other, and that's a darn shame. Lori became very emotional and stated she feels like people look at her as a danger to our community because of her political view, and she too has her own set of fears! Lori stated she has learned through talking with a more diverse group of people, she came to realize that people with different views, should not be treated with aggression or prejudice; just talking is a great start toward new solutions for Goshen. Lori was given information on how to fill out the CRC application for becoming part of the CRC group by AJ and Cathie Cripe.

- **Reminder and Upcoming Events** – Independent Festival (CRC members were unable to attend).
- **November First Fridays** - November 5th, First Fridays Cathie Cripe and Glenn Null have agreed to attend the first shift from 5-7 pm. **Steve Bermudez** (Youth Advisor) has agreed to join Cathie and Glenn. A second shift is not needed for the 7-9 shift. AJ will request the CRC table be placed near the Not-for-profit section.

Other Topics: Glenn Null has questions about the Financial Report, it appears something is missing from the totals from the usual balance line; that used to be somewhere between five to fourteen thousand.

He made mention to the CRC group to have them come to the next City Council meeting in support of the City of Goshen hiring AJ Delgadillo as a full-time CRC Director.

Motion to Adjourn Motion by: Cathie Cripe, Second by: Glenn Null

Adjourn 8:15 pm