

Community Relations Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 6 – 7 p.m.

In-Person Goshen City Hall Conference Room - 202 South 5th Street



MINUTES

CRC Members:

Catherine Cripe, Chair
E-man Monge, Treasurer
Sharon Beechy, Secretary
Kyle Richardson
Ana Zamora
Casey Kasper-Welles
Lori Copsey
Megan Peel, Council Advisor

City Staff

Amanda Guzman, Communications Manager
Hannah Scott-Carter,
Community Relations Manager
Michael Wanbaugh, Director of Administrative Affairs
Gina Leichty, Mayor

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Cathie Cripe, Chair)

- a. **Present:** Cathie Cripe, Sharon Beechy, Kyle Richardson, Lori Copsey, Megan Peel, Hannah Scott-Carter, Amanda Guzman, Michael Wanbaugh, Gina Leichty
- b. **Absent:** Ana Zamora, Casey Kasper-Welles
- c. **Guests:** Theresa Cummings, Don Shuler, Wendy Clark, Linda Gerber

2. Review the CRC Principles (Sharon Beechy, Secretary)

The CRC serves Goshen by developing programs and policies that aim for a city without racism or discrimination of any kind, and build capacity for creative problem-solving, resiliency, understanding, and compassion among the diverse people in our community

- a. Honor the dignity of each person and each person's rights
- b. Listen to the diverse voices of the community
- c. Cultivate constructive communication and engagement
- d. Value honesty, truthfulness, and integrity
- e. Promote a community that is safe for all
- f. Acknowledge and accept the challenge of change—that it may have both positive and negative consequences
- g. Promote the acceptance of differences
- h. Promote equality and freedom from discrimination

3. Approve the Agenda (Cathie Cripe, Secretary)

No changes to the agenda, approved by consent

4. Review and Approve Minutes (Sharon Beechy, Secretary)

October 8– approved by consent

5. Treasurer's Report (E-man Monge, Treasurer)

Approved by consent

6. Privilege of the Floor

- a. Lucy Kramer, AmeriCorps intern for Goshen Parks and Recreation, introduced herself to the commission and shared info about an upcoming watch party event she was hosting

7. Neighborhood Reports (Hannah Scott-Carter)

- a. **Attended** – Tuesday, October 15: EGNA
- b. Upcoming
 - i. No November events, Hannah stated last two months of the year tend to be slower for neighborhood associations

8. Council Liaison Report (Megan Peel)

9. Action Items

- i. CRC Ordinance Amendment Discussion (Gina Leichty)
 1. Mayor Leichty introduced proposed amendments to the CRC ordinance and fair housing ordinances. She gave a brief overview of the changes and the thought process behind the changes.
 2. Theresa Cummings, the city's Community Development Specialist, explained the fair housing requirements set by HUD and the CDBG program the city must follow to be eligible to receive funding via CDBG.
 3. Don Shuler, Assistant City Attorney, gave a further overview of changes and reasoning due to Goshen's size and capacity to take on fair housing complaints.
 4. Board members ask how frequently the City receives fair housing complaints. Hannah and Amanda responded that they've received only a few in their time and have referred to the building department mostly.
 5. Theresa went over the draft complaint form residents could fill out if they felt they had experienced discrimination. Kyle mentioned adding "Gender Identity" to the question, "I believe I was discriminated because of my..."
 6. Mayor Leichty explained ideally, these amendments would be brought to the City Council in December and asked board members to reach out if they had any additional feedback.
- ii. Review Kid Mayor and Council submissions and select finalists (Hannah Scott-Carter and Wendy Clark)
 1. Hannah introduces Wendy Clark, the organizer for the Kid Mayor and Kid Council program in Goshen
 2. Due to time constraints, Wendy will send a Google Drive Link to Hannah with all the videos, and Hannah will distribute them to the board. Board members agree to submit scores to Hannah by EOD Wednesday, November 13

10. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10

11. Adjourn

- a. Sharon moves, Kyle seconds

