

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, Sept 18, 2018 - 7pm.

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: Jose Rocha, David Araujo, Glenn Null, Evan Miller, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Michele Fanfair-Steury; Not present: Lizzy Diaz

CRC consultant: Darin Short

1. Call to Order & Opening

Reviewed the CRC Mission and Principles

Introduced visitors

Reviewed the agenda

2. Reviewed and accepted August minutes.

3. Received and reviewed report from Jo Ellen Davis of the Goshen Farmers Market regarding the Salsa Festival. Jose moved to accept the report, Michele seconded, passed unanimously. This was the third and final year that the CRC will provide a grant for this event. It was noted that we need more visibility during events that we sponsor through the grant program.

4. Encuentro in the Alley grant request was received and presented by Nayo Ulloa of the Latin American Culture and Language Center. The request was for \$450. Glenn moved to approve, Jose seconded, passed unanimously. It was noted that this is the second year the CRC has approved this grant request.

5. Subcommittee reports

Visitors Policy: Evan presented a combined document that included both a *Resolution for Visitors Policy* as well as *Guidelines for Visitors at CRC Meetings*. Sreekala moved to adopt both the Resolution and the Guidelines, David seconded.

Glenn moved to remove "and physical" from the "Whereas" portion of the Resolution, Michele seconded, Motion did not pass.

Visitor Angie Troyer asked if she was able to make comments and noted that the agenda item "For the Good of the CRC (public comment)" was skipped (originally listed as the 2nd item on the agenda). Angie was given the opportunity to comment and she suggested a few edits be made to the Guidelines.

Michele moved to make edits as suggested by visitor Angie Troyer, Jose seconded, passed unanimously.

Original motion to adopt the *Resolution* and *Guidelines* with edits was approved unanimously. Resolution for Visitor Policy and Guidelines for Visitors is attached to these minutes.

6. Reports and Statistics: Three calls came in on the CRC voicemail. One was a reminder of a regional Indiana Civil Rights Commission event. Another involved a potential neighbor dispute on 11th St. which was deemed to be a code enforcement issue rather than a CRC issue. The final call was from a lady living in Middlebury with a request for legal help regarding her undocumented husband and a dispute with her landlord. Darin referred her to Elkhart County HOPE Network with Center for Healing & Hope.
7. Treasurer's report was presented by Glenn. It was noted the CRC Taste of Goshen, Diversity Day fund balance was not correct. Glenn will inquire.
8. Preparing for the CRC Planning Retreat, October 2, 2018. An agenda for the retreat was presented by Evan for informational purposes only.
9. Announcements by CRC members: Glenn noted that a news article about the Salsa Festival quoted Darin as saying the grant program supports events that emphasize culture, particularly "cultures other than the dominant culture here." Glenn cautioned us about using the words "dominant culture". A conversation ensued that involved whether or not the grant guidelines/criteria call for supporting events that support cultures other than the dominant culture. It was suggested that the CRC review policies as a regular part of its monthly meeting. Many positive reflections on the meeting were offered.

Future agenda: (1) Encumbrances, (2) Identifying what contracts for 2019 can signed by Dec. monthly meeting.

Adjournment – 8:27

Adopted September 18, 2018

Resolution for Visitors Policy

Whereas:

- It is our desire to create a place of emotional and physical safety where community members can speak the truth about their experiences in our community.
- What community members have to say may be very difficult for us to hear.
- We wish to establish clear guidelines amongst ourselves about how we will treat visitors, and how we expect to be treated by them.
- Any comments brought to the CRC are the responsibility of the entire body, not any individual on the CRC.

Therefore be it resolved:

- We adopt the “Guidelines for Visitors to the CRC” handout.
- We will share the “Guidelines for Visitors to the CRC” handout at each meeting and on our website.
- The Chair will review the Guidelines at the opening of the agenda item “For the good of the CRC” when there are visitors present.
- When visitors come to the CRC, we treat them as dignified, honored guests. We listen. We speak with kindness and respect. We thank them for speaking their truth.
- We will not engage in debate or challenge their remarks during their time with us.
- We will process their comments as a group with full transparency to the visitors, and decide together on any appropriate response.

Guidelines for visitors at CRC meetings

Welcome to the Goshen Community Relations Commission (CRC). Thank you for your interest in our work.

We are community members and volunteers, appointed by the Mayor and City Council. 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.

We have committed to working with each other and with you according to these principles:

- Respect for each other and respect for each other's rights
- Open communication and engagement
- Honesty
- A safe community
- Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences
- Tolerance of differences
- Support for equality and freedom from discrimination

We set aside time at our meetings to allow public input during "For the Good of the CRC." If you wish to speak with the CRC, we ask that you do so at that time, and in the spirit of the principles outlined above.

In order to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has an equal opportunity to do so in a limited amount of time, please keep the following in mind:

1. The Chair will call upon those who wish to speak, and ensure these Guidelines are followed.
2. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes. If a previous speaker addressed your comment, please do not repeat remarks or points already made.
3. Comments should be directed to the CRC as a body --- not to individual members, staff members, or other members of the audience.
4. Comments should not include personal attacks directed at any individual or group.
5. Vulgar or abusive language will not be tolerated.
6. After you have spoken, the CRC may ask questions for clarification, but will not debate with you.

Thank you again for caring about our work and our community. We appreciate the contributions of all persons who wish to help us achieve our mission.