

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of the City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

Tuesday, August 8, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Goshen City Hall, 204 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

**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 Present:** Ed Ahlersmeyer, David Araujo, Lizzy Diaz, John Ferguson, Evan Miller, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Nathan Mateer-Rempel, Judy Snider, and Angie Troyer

**CRC Members Absent:** None

**CRC Consultant Present:** Darin Short

**Others Attending:** Sandra McMasters

#### 1. Call to Order & Opening (7:00 – 7:18)

- a. Angie called the meeting to order, inviting Ms. McMasters to introduce herself. Ms. McMasters commented regarding a situation in her neighborhood in which a resident voiced concerns regarding the number of cars parked at another resident's home. The complainant is Caucasian and the owner of the cars is Latino. She is concerned that the situation might escalate and inquired about mediation services available through the CRC.

Nate responded by suggesting that Ms. McMasters contact José Elizalde at LaCasa. José can arrange for mediation and the CRC will pay a portion of the introductory mediation session.

Several Commissioners commented that the cars in question may/may not be a violation of City ordinances. Ms. McMasters was encouraged to research municipal guidelines and to then contact José.

- b. Angie asked Commissioners to review the evening's agenda. She also asked for comments regarding the minutes of the CRC meeting of July 11, 2017. It was noted that review of minutes is a stand-alone agenda item later in the evening's proceedings.

***ACTION: With no discussion, Evan moved to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Nate and was passed unanimously by Commissioners.***

- c. Angie offered an opportunity for CRC members to offer comments. There were none.

#### 2. July Reflection (7:18 – 7:34)

Evan commented regarding two incidents during which business associates made comments which Evan believed to be inappropriate. He commented that he had been so taken aback by comments made during each episode that he had offered no reactive comments in the moment.

Very shortly following the second incident, he decided that he must respond to the speaker, and did so. He confronted the speaker, who admitted that his comments were inappropriate. He then also spoke with the individual who had previously commented. Both individuals claimed to not be racist.

Evan concluded his reflection by stating that he hopes he responds both appropriately and immediately should he find himself in similar situations in the future.

Ed commented that Evan, even in his delayed responses, had taken important actions to "make the world better."

Upcoming reflections will be offered as follows:

September	Lizzy
October	Nate
November	Angie
December	Ed

#### 3. For the Good of the CRC – Public Comment (7:34 – 7:34)

There were no comments offered, as there were no visitors.

#### 4. MultiCultural Festival Grant Proposal (7:34 – 7:50)

Angie reported that \$500 is being sought from the CRC to support the event. She added that in her opinion, said expenditure is appropriate, and that CRC participation will further develop its relationship with LaCasa, the City and other partnering Festival organizers.

Nate commented that he is a Board member at LaCasa and that he would abstain from any votes on this matter. He added however that the Festival is a very worthwhile event.

Judy asked whether there are additional, upcoming expenditures that should be considered and which will affect a CRC decision tonight regarding Festival support. She added that while CRC financial reports are in better condition, they are still not fully accurate. Ed responded by offering that there will likely be new marketing expenses incurred yet this year. Nate commented that the CRC has approximately \$13,000 to either expend or encumber by year's end. Commissioners agreed that yes, there will be additional expenditures.

***ACTION: Judy moved to approve the expenditure of \$500 in support of the MultiCultural Festival. Lizzy seconded the motion, which passed the CRC unanimously.***

Sreekala commented regarding this past weekend's Salsa Festival at the Farmer's Market. She noted that the CRC table at the festival had been unmanned while she visited and that we'd lost an opportunity to market ourselves. Angie noted that while she was present, Festival patrons had taken many CRC promotional materials. Darin added that he too, had been very busy interacting with patrons and that he believed the CRC exposure to be both very extensive and beneficial during the Festival.

Judy offered that certain language used in Goshen News coverage of the Festival, and which was attributed to a Festival organizer, had been inappropriate. Angie added however, that comments about the Festival submitted to the newspaper following publication had been overwhelmingly positive.

#### 5. Subcommittee on Initiative Criteria (7:50 – 8:22)

Darin reported that the Subcommittee (consisting of himself, Lizzy and David) had drafted the "Proposed Criteria for Initiatives Selection," which he distributed. Commissioners engaged in considerable discussion regarding item #5, and whether the CRC should restrict its discretionary initiative spending based on an arbitrarily determined ceiling.

A few comments were offered during discussion, each of which will help re-draft the "Criteria:"

- Several Commissioners offered that the CRC should not arbitrarily limit spending on any given initiative, and that the Commission should expend resources in such amounts as are deemed to be both adequate and responsible.
- It was suggested (by Ed) that the CRC develop a cadre of non-CRC volunteers to support and assist with various initiatives.
- Comments were offered that whatever activities are undertaken and financially supported by the CRC must be "done well," without undue consideration of cost. **This does not imply that Commissioners will act without appropriate consideration of its considerable fiduciary responsibilities and public accountability.**
- Projects undertaken must be fully funded, solely by the CRC or preferably, in partnership with others.
- Considerable attention must be given in planning all initiatives to the identification of observable, and where possible, measurable, project outcomes which may be appropriately reported.

Darin will re-draft the Criteria for presentation at the September meeting of the CRC.

#### 6. Evaluation of Resources (8:22 – 8:42)

Darin distributed a draft document, "Resources Assessment." In this, he has identified a wide variety of resources (financial, human, organizational, etc.) that could be available to support CRC initiatives, with estimates regarding the quantity (value?) of each resource.

Darin commented regarding the existence of various grant sources available via the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and his belief that the CRC is an eligible applicant for same.

Evan commented that the inventory is a wonderful start toward identifying resources that might be utilized by the CRC to further its mission.

**7. Presentation/Evaluation of Initiatives (8:42 – 8:58)**

Darin distributed the “CRC June 2017 Retreat Summary,” directing Commissioners’ attention to page 4, Results of Vote on Initiatives. The intent this evening was to select those initiatives that would be addressed/launched immediately by the CRC.

Ed asked regarding initiatives which the CRC was already committed to and hence, how much time and energy remains to pursue other, new activities. The CRC is already committed to a new marketing initiative which will require attention TBD, and the 2018 Taste of Goshen.

Following conversation, three new initiatives were identified and which will be addressed:

- *Community conversations* – with a planning subcommittee consisting of Sreekala, David and Darin formed
- *By-stander training* – with a planning subcommittee consisting of Lizzy, Angie and Nate formed
- Establishment of a group on *non-CRC volunteers* – with initial “membership” consisting of those 12 persons who attended the CRC’s July meeting and who volunteered to assist in ways TBD, as well as those other citizens who have voiced interest in, and support of, CRC initiatives.

**8. Reports and Statistics (8:58 – 8:59)**

Darin reported that the only inquiry received by him during the past month was from Sandra McMasters (see Call to Order above).

**9. Review of July’s Minutes (8:59 – 9:04)**

July meeting minutes were moved approved as noted in Call to Order above.

Evan had several questions however, based on a review of July minutes content:

- a. Why were CRC Principles not addressed and adopted by the City Council as planned? Ed responded that no action was taken by the Council as there were questions regarding how to treat the issue (as an ordinance, as rules, via some other Council vehicle, etc.).
- b. He also asked whether Darin had spoken with Police Chief Branson. Darin responded that he and Chief have spoken and that Chief will attend the CRC’s October meeting.

***ACTION: CRC members will pre-submit questions they would like Chief to respond to. These questions should be directed to Angie not later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in September so that she may get them to Chief for review prior to his meeting with the CRC.***

**10. Treasurer’s report (9:04 – 9:07)**

Judy commented that CRC financials are still not accurate. She hopes that all remaining issues will be resolved by the end of August.

**11. Consortium Ad Discussion (9:07 – 9:08)**

The statewide meeting of the Consortium is later this month. Angie encouraged Commissioners to consider attending if possible.

Angie also mentioned that the Goshen CRC has the opportunity to purchase ad space in the Consortium meeting materials. CRC members indicated that they do not want to incur said expense.

**12. Announcements by CRC Members, Closing Comments, and Reflections on the Meeting (9:08 – 9:12)**

David apologized for missing the CRC’s July meeting, adding that his duties as pastor occasionally require him to alter his plans unexpectedly. It was noted that Commissioners are not to miss more than 4 meetings in a year. Angie commented however, that Commissioners understand the complicated nature of David’s pastoral duties.

**13. Adjournment (9:12)**

The next meeting of the Goshen CRC is scheduled for September 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Goshen’s City Hall.

***Action: Nate moved to adjourn the CRC meeting of August 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Lizzy and was unanimously passed.***