

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 10th, 7pm.

Location:

Conference Room, Municipal Annex Building

[204 East Jefferson St.](#)

[Goshen 46526](#)

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: Michele Fanfair-Steury, Jose Rocha, Glenn Null, Evan Miller, Ed Ahlersmeyer, Lizzy Diaz, Sreekala Rajagopalan, David Araujo

Others Present: Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, CRC consultant Darin Short and more than 30 community members

1. Call to Order & Opening at 7:05 pm.
 - a. A decision was made to record the meeting via voice recorder and to not ask anyone to take written minutes during the meeting. (Subsequent to the meeting Darin was asked to draft minutes using the audio recording as the basis for the minutes.)
 - b. Agenda was accepted as presented
2. CRC reflection was offered by Michele (audio recording beginning at 1 min, 45 sec). She shared a brief video of a young boy who said he would make a rule that all men are created equal should he become president. Michele noted that this exact idea was the basis for the founding of this country.

Time was taken for introductions of CRC commissioners.

3. A community, grassroots group forming around the idea "Good Work Goshen" was introduced by Darin (audio recording beginning at 10 min, 48 sec). Community member and small business owner Myron Bontrager represented this group and spoke of the group's intent and desire for small business owners to be able to promote and support fair and healthy workplaces. Myron and the group shared this with the CRC because of the potential alignment of the missions of the CRC and "Good Work Goshen". The intent of this introduction was not to ask for any commitment from the CRC; rather the intent was to share information only and begin a discussion. At this point, the group's only information can be found at this website: www.GoodworkGoshen.com.
4. For the Good of the CRC (audio recording beginning at 29 min, 10 sec) – Many community members came to share their concerns about the article ("Blacks, Crime, and the Bended Knee" by Shari Goodman which can be found at [this link](#)) read by Ed A. during the CRC Reflection during the December 2017 CRC meeting.
5. Letters to City Council and the CRC (audio recording beginning at 1 hr, 21 min, 31 sec) – A community member, Karl Shelly, sent a letter to the City Council in early April urging the City

Council to rescind Ed A.'s appointment to the CRC, and to pass a resolution officially censoring Ed A. for propagating white supremacist views on behalf of the City Council. Another community member, Anika Roth, also sent an email/letter to the City Council (with copy to the CRC and Mayor Stutsman) asking the Council to remove Ed A. from the CRC and publicly condemn Ed A. for using the article referred to in item 4 (four) above as part of his December CRC commissioner reflection. The CRC commissioners provided various responses to these letters. No official action was taken by the CRC.

6. Taste of Goshen (audio recording beginning at 1 hr, 38 min, 57 sec) – The CRC discussed final preparations for the Taste of Goshen. Darin presented a budget for approval. Glenn moved to approve the budget, seconded by Ed, passed unanimously.
7. CRC Retreat (audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 12 min, 10 sec) – The group discussed the need for a retreat. Darin was asked to send out a Doodle link to schedule the retreat with possible dates in late July and early August. Evan moved to table this discussion further until the May meeting, seconded by Glenn, passed unanimously
8. Subcommittee reports (audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 18 min, 1 sec)
 - a. By Stander Training – Darin presented a report as an update to what is happening with the By Stander Training planning. The most salient point being that the planning team decided it would be best if the CRC first developed a shared understanding around the terminology used in the context of racism and discrimination.
 - b. Marketing – Darin provided a brief update regarding the search for a Content Creator. Darin will be in contact soon with Gina Liechty of Eyedart who will likely submit a proposal.
9. Reports and Statistics (audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 21 min, 50 sec) – there was no activity on the CRC voicemail or email this month.
10. Review of January, February, and March minutes (audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 21 min, 58 sec) –
 - a. Evan moved to approve January minutes subject to minor edits suggested by Evan, seconded by Ed, unanimously approved by those in attendance at the January meeting
 - b. Evan moved to approve February minutes, seconded by Glenn, unanimously approved
 - c. Evan moved to approve March minutes, seconded by Ed, unanimously approved
11. Treasurer's report (audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 33 min, 14 sec) – presented by Evan.
12. Announcements by CRC members, closing comments, reflections on the meeting ((audio recording beginning at 2 hr, 34 min, 51 sec) – CRC commissioners offered various reflections about the meeting and how we should move forward. At the request of community member Richard Aguirre, Darin announced a "town hall"-type meeting on April 11 at Goshen College to be led by Goshen College students with a specific desire for community members to participate.
13. Motion to adjourn by Sreekala, seconded by Evan, approved unanimously.

Recorded by Darin Short