

Community Relations Commission

Meeting Agenda



Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 4 p.m.

Council Chambers, Goshen Police & Courts, 111 E. Jefferson St.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction of CRC Members and Guests

- a. **MEMBERS:** E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber and John Dolezal.
- b. **GUESTS:** Gina Leichty (Mayor), Phil Lederach (City Council Liaison), Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs/Interim Community Relations Director), Amanda Guzman (Communications Manager) and Theresa Cummings (CDGB administrator)

2. Approve the Agenda

3. Oath of Office

- a. John Dolezal (Mayor appointee)
 - Filling the expired seat of Casey Kasper. Term expires Dec. 31, 2027

4. Approval of the Minutes

- a. March 4
- b. April 1

5. Adoption of Policy to provide Public Notice of Meetings

Policy sets forth the statutory requirements for providing the public notice of meetings, including the method in which the governing body will provide notice to all news media and to any person.

6. CDBG and Community Partnership/Sponsorship presentations (5 minutes)

- a. Boys and Girls Club – Lana Leftwich (CDBG)
- b. Elkhart County Clubhouse – Erich Miller (CDBG)
- c. Maple City Health Care – Mike Genau (CDBG)
- d. First Light Mission – Mindy Morehead (CDBG & Partnership)
- e. Float Fest – Scott Lehman (Sponsorship)

7. Presentation: How Goshen got its name

- a. Local historian Val Collins and guests Carol and Art Razo explain the connection between Goshens in New York, Ohio and Indiana

8. CRC Financial Report

9. Community Partnership/Sponsorship Award Update

10. Looking ahead

- a. First Friday's CRC table (Angie Wentz)
- b. Northside Walkabout

11. Privilege of the floor**12. Adjournment**



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – April 1, 2025

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Interim Chair Michael Wanbaugh.

Members present: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartentruber

City Council Liaison present: Phil Lederach

Guests: Mayor Gina Leichty, Community Development Block Grant Administrator Theresa Cummings

Interim Chair Wanbaugh welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the presence of newly appointed and continuing members of the Commission, as well as guests from City government.

2. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes proposed to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Oaths of Office

Mayor Gina Leichty administered the oaths of office for two new CRC members:

- Angie Wentz, appointed to complete the term of Cathy Cripe (through December 31, 2026)
- Tim Swartentruber, appointed to complete the term of Kyle Richardson (through December 31, 2025)

4. Community Partnership/Sponsorship Presentations

Interim Chair Wanbaugh introduced this portion of the meeting by highlighting the importance of transparency and community collaboration in the CRC's funding processes.

Mayor Gina Leichty offered opening remarks recognizing the value of community partnerships.

Nine applicants presented proposals for 2025 funding consideration:

- Nick Keiffer – Goshen Chamber of Commerce
- Veronica Berkey, Amanda Rose, and Michelle Horning – Downtown Goshen, Inc.
- Susan Visser – Goshen Theater
- Bethany Hartley – South Bend–Elkhart Regional Partnership
- John Misher – Downtown Sculpture Project
- Megan Hessel – River Bend Film Festival
- Trevor Daugherty – Michiana Pottery Tour
- Chris Stager – Economic Development Corp. of Elkhart County
- Adrienne Nesbitt – Arts on the Millrace

Note: Scott Lehman, scheduled to present on behalf of Float Fest 2025, has rescheduled and will present at the May 6 CRC meeting.

Interim Chair Wanbaugh thanked each presenter following their remarks and acknowledged the energy and creativity evident in the proposed initiatives.



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5. Financial Report

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver presented the CRC financial report through March 31, 2025. As of that date, \$28,000 had been expended from the Commission's \$206,050 annual budget, leaving approximately 86% of funds remaining. Full financials are on record and will guide evaluation of future funding decisions.

6. International Women's Day Luncheon Report

Interim Chair Wanbaugh reported on the 2025 International Women's Day Luncheon held March 7 at Bread & Chocolate.

Themed *Breaking Barriers*, the event featured four women from various professional fields. Seventy tickets were sold, generating over \$3,600 in net revenue. Total event expenses exceeded \$9,100. The Commission expressed appreciation to community sponsors and contributors for their support of the event.

7. Public Hearing – CDBG 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan & 2025 Action Plan

A public hearing was held as part of the City's required citizen participation process for the proposed 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

CDBG Administrator Theresa Cummings provided an overview of the plan, including its availability for public comment from March 18 to April 16, 2025. She outlined priority areas identified in the plan, including the expansion of housing opportunities, improved access to essential services, and neighborhood revitalization.

Proposed 2025 activities include public service grants, housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy conservation for multi-family housing, and general administration. The plan is based on an estimated total CDBG budget of \$339,750, pending final allocation from HUD.

Attendees were invited to offer public comment. No comments were made, and the public hearing was formally closed.

8. Looking Ahead

Interim Chair Wanbaugh noted that the Commission will continue its review of funding requests and begin early planning for summer and fall programming. Members were encouraged to monitor email communications for updates.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Members of the public were invited to speak. No comments were offered.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion carried.



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GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – March 4, 2025

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Michael Wanbaugh at 4:00 p.m.

CRC members present: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey

City Council Liaison: Phil Lederach

Guests: Mayor Gina Leichty, Communications Manager Amanda Guzman, Director of Administrative Affairs and Interim CRC Director Michael Wanbaugh, and Community Development Block Grant Administrator Theresa Cummings

Prospective CRC members Angie Wentz, Marylyn Torres, Lisa Lederach, and Alison Garcia Romero were present. Each was invited to introduce themselves and briefly share their interest in joining the Commission. The CRC expressed its appreciation for their desire to serve. Interim Chair Wanbaugh noted that appointments were expected to be finalized ahead of the April 1 meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2025

The minutes from the February 4, 2025, meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Report

Commission members were provided an opportunity to review the CRC's current budget. No formal report was presented.

5. International Women's Day Luncheon Update

Communications Manager Amanda Guzman provided an update on the 2025 International Women's Day Luncheon, held March 7 at Bread & Chocolate.

This year's event, themed *Breaking Barriers*, featured four PechaKucha-style presentations by women excelling in underrepresented fields: Julia Chairez (healthcare), Amy Sink (finance), Tara Powell (public safety), and Hannah Estes (fire service).

Seventy tickets were sold, with total gross sales of \$4,043 and net revenue of \$3,687. Sponsorships at multiple levels provided additional financial support. Total confirmed expenses amounted to \$9,125. The event was described as meaningful, well-attended, and responsibly managed.

6. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report

Theresa Cummings, CDBG Administrator, gave an overview of the City's CDBG program, which supports housing, neighborhood revitalization, and economic opportunity for low- to moderate-income residents.



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The Commission thanked Theresa for her continued work administering this federally funded program.

7. Community Partnership and Sponsorship Presentations

Mayor Gina Leichty offered opening remarks regarding the importance of civic partnerships and the CRC's role in evaluating funding applications.

The following community organizations presented requests for 2025 CRC partnership or sponsorship funding:

- Wayne Stubbs and Karen Braden – Elkhart County Symphony
- Danae Wirth – Goshen Historical Society
- Pam Kennedy – North Central Indiana Housing (Warsaw Housing Authority)
- Gregg Lanzen – First In Chaplain Crisis Response Team
- Laura Johnson – Black Squirrel Golf Club
- Chuck Hamilton – Air Supremacy Over Goshen (sponsorship request)
- Henrique Eichenberger – Goshen City FC (sponsorship request)
- Ashley Bowen – Lacasa of Goshen

Following the presentations, Interim Chair Wanbaugh thanked each presenter and acknowledged their contributions to the Goshen community.

8. Looking Ahead

Commission members and guests were invited to share any items to consider in upcoming meetings. General discussion followed.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Members of the public were invited to speak. No public comments were offered.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION _____

Resolution of the Goshen Community Relations Commission Adopting a Policy to Provide Public Notice of Meetings

WHEREAS I.C. 5-14-1.5-5 sets forth the requirements for a governing body to provide public notice of any meetings, executive sessions or of any rescheduled or reconvened meeting.

WHEREAS I.C. 5-14-1.5-5(b)(2) provides that a governing body shall determine the method in which the governing body shall provide notice of meetings to all news media which deliver to the governing body an annual written request for notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.

WHEREAS I.C. 5-14-1.5-5(b)(3) provides that a governing body may adopt a policy to determine the method in which the governing body shall provide notice of meetings to any person (other than news media) who delivers to the governing body an annual written request for notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.

WHEREAS the purpose of this policy is to state the methods in which the Goshen Community Relations Commission, as a governing body of the City of Goshen, shall provide public notice of meetings in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5 et seq., the Goshen Community Relations Commission, hereinafter referred to as “governing body,” shall provide public notice of meetings as follows:

- A. Public notice of any meetings, executive sessions, or of any rescheduled or reconvened meeting, shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before the meeting. This requirement does not apply to reconvened meetings (not including executive sessions) where announcement of the date, time, and location of the reconvened meeting is made at the original meeting and recorded in the memoranda and minutes thereof, and there is no change in the agenda. This requirement also does not apply to a meeting called to deal with an emergency as provided under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5(d).
- B. The public notice shall include the following information:
 - 1. Governing body name.
 - 2. Date of meeting.
 - 3. Time of meeting.
 - 4. Location of meeting.
 - 5. Website address for live transmissions and archived copies of live transmissions of meetings, excluding an executive session.
 - 6. If the meeting is an executive session, the public notice shall include the subject matter by specific reference to the enumerated instance or instances for which an executive session may be held under I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b).

- C. The public notice of meetings shall be given by:
1. Posting a copy of the notice at Goshen City Hall.
 2. Publishing the notice on the City of Goshen's website at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting shall serve as notice to any person (other than news media) who delivers to the governing body or the Goshen Clerk-Treasurer's Office an annual written request for the notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.
 3. Transmitting the notice by electronic mail to all news media which deliver to the governing body or the Goshen Clerk-Treasurer's Office an annual written request for the notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.
- D. Notice of regular meetings need be given only once each year, except that an additional notice shall be given where the date, time, or location of a regular meeting or meetings is changed. This does not apply to executive sessions.
- E. If an agenda is utilized for a meeting, a copy of the agenda shall be posted at the entrance to the location of the meeting prior to the meeting.
- F. This policy to provide public notice of meetings shall be effective immediately. Upon the effective date of this policy, all prior policies on providing public notice of meetings, specifically including the policy adopted March 12, 2013, shall be repealed.
- G. This policy is intended to be consistent with the Indiana Open Door Law codified at I.C. 5-14-1.5 et seq. as in effect on April 25, 2025, and is incorporated hereto by reference. In the event that I.C. 5-14-1.5 et seq. is amended in such a way to conflict with any provision in this policy, then this policy shall be amended to comply with the statutory amendment.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Goshen Community Relations Commission on _____, 2025.

Crane Township Rediscovered Its Founder's Surprising Story Ahead of Bicentennial

Crane Township Fiscal Officer Carol Razo and her husband, Art Razo, recently embarked on research trips to Goshen, New York, and Goshen, Indiana, uncovering surprising new chapters in the life of Oliver Crane — the namesake of Crane Township — just ahead of the township's 2025 bicentennial.

In late February, the couple visited Goshen, New York, where they met with Mayor Molly O'Donnell, Orange County Clerk Kelly Eskew, Village Historian Ed Connor, and attended a Goshen Town meeting. With the help of local historians, they pinpointed where Oliver Crane likely lived before migrating west and learned that Crane operated a distillery prior to leaving New York.

On April 1, the Razos continued their search in Goshen, Indiana, meeting with Mayor Gina Leichty, Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh, and local historian Valerie Collins. What they thought would be a quiet ending to Crane's story turned into a remarkable twist. Collins discovered that in 1849 — the height of the California Gold Rush — Oliver Crane boarded the ship *Sarah McFarland* in New York and sailed around Cape Horn on a grueling 17,000-mile journey to San Francisco.

Crane was part of a group that called themselves the “Hoosier Boys,” and it appears they weren't chasing gold, but timber — likely intending to build a sawmill, a trade they already knew well. However, records show that Crane returned to Goshen, Indiana, rather quickly, making it back home in time for the 1850 census.

“It doesn't appear Oliver struck it rich or spent much time building a sawmill, but that brief adventure is an amazing glimpse into his character,” said Carol Razo.

“It's humbling to think that one man's journey nearly 200 years ago still links our small communities today,” Razo added. “Oliver Crane lived in Goshen, New York, helped settle what became Crane Township in Ohio, and eventually made his way to Goshen, Indiana. Learning about his life reminds us that even in a time without highways or email, people and places were deeply connected — and those connections still matter.”

Crane Township will celebrate its bicentennial in August 2025, honoring Oliver Crane's legacy and the settlers who followed.

For more information about the bicentennial or Crane Township history, contact Carol Razo at cranetwp@yahoo.com.

Photo captions:

Goshen NY Photo



Left to right: Art Razo, Carol Razo, Molly O'Donnell, Mayor of Goshen NY, Kelly Eskew, Orange County Clerk

Goshen IN Photo



Left to right: Art Razo, Carol Razo, Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen IN, Valerie Collins, Goshen IN Historian, Carol S Razo, CPM

Fiscal Officer

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