



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – Nov. 4, 2025

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 | 4 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at **4:00 p.m.**

Commission Members Present:

E-man Monge (Chair), Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, John Dolezal

Absent:

Tim Swartzendruber

Also Present:

Mayor Gina Leichty, City Council Liaison Phil Lederach, Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh, CDBG Administrator Theresa Cummings, and LaCasa Director of Community Building and Engagement Daniela Panetta.

2. Approval of Minutes (Oct. 7, 2025)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Oct. 7 minutes as written.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update

Presenter: **Theresa Cummings**

Cummings provided a detailed review of outcomes from the 2024 program year and highlighted funding impacts across Goshen, noting:

- Approximately **\$342,000** funded 11 approved activities.
- More than **1,000 low- and moderate-income residents** benefited.
- Supported programs included First Light Mission meal services, Maple City Healthcare Center support, LaCasa Help-a-House rehabilitation initiatives, Boys & Girls Club meal service, homeownership support for seven households, Council on Aging transportation assistance, and preschool scholarships.

Cummings emphasized the long-term community impact of the funding, noting that Maple City



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Healthcare Center first received CDBG-enabling dollars more than three decades ago and now serves nearly 10,000 residents annually.

She reported that funding for the 2025 cycle totals **\$343,000** and includes two new eligible project categories:

- Solar improvements on a LaCasa affordable housing site intended to reduce energy and operational costs
- Reimbursement for HUD-approved homeownership counseling

No action was required.

5. LaCasa Community Leadership Institute Report

Presenter: **Daniela Panetta**

Panetta shared a summary of Goshen's participation in the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute in Minneapolis. A cohort of Goshen neighborhood residents participated in workshops and planning sessions focused on community empowerment and leadership development.

As part of the institute, Goshen will receive a project grant. Participants are developing a concept focused on community connection in the Chamberlain neighborhood. Initial discussion points include:

- A shared neighborhood meal
- A potential mural or youth-driven creative element
- Integration with the Chamberlain community garden reopening

The project period will extend up to one year and is expected to support long-term neighborhood leadership development.

6. 2026 Community Partnership & Sponsorship Cycle

Wanbaugh shared updates on the upcoming grant cycle and reported that the online application system is being finalized. The updated schedule includes:

- **Application deadline:** November 14, 2025
- **Public presentations:** December 2 and December 3 at 4 p.m., Council Chambers
- **Executive session deliberation:** December 9, 2025

He also clarified the distinction between federally regulated CDBG funds and locally controlled municipal partnership dollars. No vote was required.



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7. Financial Report

Wanbaugh reported that several reimbursements remain outstanding from Indigenous Peoples Day and neighborhood mini-grants. Remaining funds may support outreach materials including shirts, pens, table signage, or other items for First Friday engagement.

No motion required.

8. Upcoming Events

- **November Light Parade:** Commissioners are invited to walk with the Mayor's entry and participate in community engagement.
- **Community Conversation on SEA-1:** Commissioners were encouraged to attend the public budget impact discussion on November 12 at Goshen Theater.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Commissioner **E-man Monge** shared an update from the Shanklin–Millrace Neighborhood Association. Earlier in October, four neighbors organized a pop-up street gathering with shared food and informal activities. Approximately 35 residents attended, including several children who used the temporarily closed street for chalk art and outdoor play. Commissioners noted the gathering as a positive example of organic neighborhood-building and engagement.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.