

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2020—7 p.m.**

**Goshen City Annex Conference Room, 204 E. Jefferson St.**

### PRESENT

Michele Fanfair-Steury, Glenn Null, Simon Hertzler Gascho, Evan Miller, Julia King, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Judith, AJ Delgadillo, Yolo Lopez DeMarco, Cathie Cripe

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Glenn, second by AJ. Approved unanimously.

Community building led by AJ—“What is a way you have taken advantage of the warm weather the last week?”

Sundown Town “Next Step” presentation—Dan Shenk, Lee Berry and Allan Kauffman invited to present. Shenk passed around copies of the Sundown Town resolution passed in 2015— Res. 2015-08, and presented a historical account of how the resolution was passed.

Shenk, Berry and Kauffman presented plans for placing a historical marker to commemorate the unanimous passage of the resolution that acknowledged Goshen’s past as a sundown town.

The project has support of Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, the Goshen Historical Society and the CRC, though recommendations for the rewriting the marker and adding information on the marker to take viewers to a website with more information were made.

Community conversations— The commission received a report from Jes Buller following the conversation about discrimination (February 20, 2020).

Sreekala presented Ed Groff, a new Goshen resident who attended the community conversation related to discrimination. Groff presented himself, mentioned he had heard about the council’s attempt at adding sexual orientation to the City’s discrimination ordinance and asked when he might see the Council revisit that. Further discussion about discrimination ordinance.

During conversation in February: Fanfair Steury mentioned she learned about GHS creating Black Student Association. She will extend invitation to students and mentor to attend CRC meetings.

Discussion about Community Conversations series—Talk about spring series’ future in face of COVID-19 outbreak.

- Goshen High School has started Black student club. Michele will reach out to students and mentor and invite to attend CRC meeting in the future.
- AJ will take the lead on Discrimination meeting.
- Update on Balancing power conversation by Yolo: Meetings continue to happen though volunteers are having personal responsibilities that have prevented them from meeting more times.
- Feedback about conversations. Have post-its and pencils to write contact information among people who want to make new connections.
- Need for better response toward growing minorities in our community. More cultural training for teachers and more teachers of color.

#### Committee reports—

- Treasurer report: No new report. One donation received for \$15.
- Bystander training: Judith said they need to consult with Nicole (trainer) about timing for new bystander training. Also talk about who to invite—it was decided 25 were the correct number to invite. Null suggested city council, judge, elected officials in general.
- Middle School: Judith and Sreekala will be meeting with Christa and students April 17.
- Fusion/diversity fest: Fanfair Steury mentioned it has been challenging to meet, but will happen soon.

#### Action—

Glenn moved to approve Cathie Cripe, as Secretary of the CRC, to be in charge of sending out correspondence on the behalf of the commission.

#### New business—

- Tracy Eggleston, who helps prepare CRC packet, asked if all agenda items and materials could be given to her by Friday at noon so she can have enough time to prepare the packet.
- Retreat 2020: Talk about a date in the next meeting.

#### Other business:

- AJ brought up the follow up to community conversations, the task forces to continue working on their projects and potential for grass roots efforts.
- Involvement in being “conduit of funds” for community projects (third party organizations). There will be a need to review the structures in place and find new ways to advertise the program as an organization.
- Budget conversation for 2021. Will the CRC consider bringing in changes to the discrimination ordinance for protection of LGBTQ community?
- CRC should discuss in the future a board packet — material for the orientation for new board members. Plus, an exit interview to gain feedback from former members.
- Gabe Miller, Goshen College student asking if anyone from CRC asking if anyone would be interested in speaking at Earth Day, April 22, 2020, from perspective of CRC.

#### Closing comments:

Reminder that West Goshen Neighborhood Association will meet April 27, 6:30 p.m., at West Goshen Elementary School, want more information about the CRC.