

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monday, August 9, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Goshen City Council Chamber - **111 East Jefferson St.**



Present: Malik Cato, Cathie Cripe, Judith Davis, Ed Groff, Glenn Null

On Zoom: Sreekala Rajagopalan, Michele Fanfair-Steury

Also Present: AJ Delgadillo (CRC Director), Megan Eichorn (Council Liaison)

Meeting called to order (7:06 pm)

Call to Order & Opening

Review Minutes from July 12, 2021: Amendment made to correct spelling of Cathie Cripes' last name. **(Approved Unanimously)**

Review of the CRC Mission and Principles - **Read aloud by the group**

Introduction of CRC members and visitors – Mayor Jeremy Stutsman and Sharon Hernandez.

Review the agenda **(Accepted by consent)**

Getting Comfortable: CRC Community Building – With the start of the school year, are there any back-to-school rituals that you would want to talk about as a parent or as a kid? **(General conversation and sharing).**

New Business

1. Update on communication with Dr. Janet Riley about the workshop (AJ)

After speaking with Dr. Riley, she confirmed both the 1 hr. intro and the 2-hr. workshop would work for the September 25, 2021 date, and things are coming together. The first half of the retreat will be 2 hours with Dr. Riley. We will have a brief time to take care of the biological needs and get snacks, and following that, we will transition to strategic planning. AJ commented that Dr. Riley said that Strategic planning and the workshop work best in person. In-person is preferred if possible. Those that have special circumstances, will be included with a Hybrid fashion to include **the in-person attendees and virtual experience.**

Cathie Cripe, where will the Workshop be held? AJ plans to check with the Parks Department to see if September 25 date would be available at the Rieth Center or Abshire Cabin?

Ed, asked AJ, Is the 1-hour intro something we might do via zoom in advance before the meeting? AJ - Hopeful yes. Cathie, will the assessment be something we will need to be signed in for? AJ; the group will be at a computer and you will be clicking on the corresponding answers.

AJ, the one hour will be items similar to what the packet included at the last meeting; Cultural Diversity Self Assessments, and there is a more in-depth assessment each member will take. Those assessments will shape what Dr. Riley does on the 2- hour workshop agenda. The assessments will be taken on a computer before September 25, 2021.

Cathie; and that is our intro? AJ; no, so there will be an intro that will be a sequence, there will be a meeting with all of us. Cathie, between now and September 25th. AJ – Yes, and the turnaround is going to be a tight one.

2. **Donald Brown resignation**

Sharon Hernandez spoke on this subject to the committee saying; Don was sent an email from Sharon Hernandez on Thursday, August 5th requesting all “agenda” items. Don sent Sharon back in the email with a reply of the items for the agenda, and Don’s resignation was listed as an agenda item. Sharon sent Don a follow-up email; asking Don if he would be sending a resignation letter, and when, and he said later. Sharon had to send a second email on Monday, August 9th asking Don if he would be sending out a resignation letter before Monday night's meeting begins; he said; no, I will not be doing that. The two emails were the only communications Sharon Hernandez and Don Brown concerning this subject.

Motion made to accept Don Brown’s resignation: By: Ed Groff, based on communications received, that Don intends to resign as chairperson and from the commission. **(Passed Unanimously)**.

For the Good of CRC- Community Comment

Reports and Statistics

1. **Treasurer's Report – (Ed Groff) Treasures Report (Ed Groff)** Expenditures from Juneteenth Event were \$488, and the current balance is \$9987 **(Accepted by consent)**
2. **Council Liaison Report – (Megan Eichorn)** Nothing new to discuss.
3. **Director’s Report –** AJ feels like he is starting to get a rhythm to what he is doing. AJ noted the Subcommittees are starting to take off in the right direction with meetings. AJ is starting to find a rhythm of spending more time tapping into the imagination and ideas

from the CRC group and talking more with the people in our community for what's feasible and conveying their information back to the subcommittee.

4. Subcommittee Reports (Don, Cathie, Glenn, Sreekala) Sundown Town

Group came up with a plan on how to collect information to report back; a survey draft will be established to be sent out everywhere, get it posted, even digitally to be sent out in emails, City and CRC websites. Aside from just handing out posters everywhere, we will need to come up with a number of targeted places and times that we want to hand out posters and make sure we get information from Dan and Leroy about what their goals are so that we can convey that effectively for folks so that we don't have to put words in their mouths or worry that we are misrepresenting them. Then scheduling conversations that will be in person, followed by repeating that process of canvassing with surveys and using the surveys to point people towards conversations and then circling back to a second in-person conversation. Once that process has been completed twice; we will compile all of the responses, writing a summary and the subcommittee will write a recommendation to the full board and from there the full Board will have a vote at a regular meeting.

Announcements by CRC members, closing comments, reflections on the meeting –

- a.) A letter will be written by Judith Davis on behalf of the CRC group; to be sent to Don Brown, thanking him for all of his hard work and contributions he made to the CRC Group.
- b.) The subcommittee will be asked to nominate a new chairperson for the next month going forward. Vice-Chair is Cathie Cripe. Cathie Cripe has agreed to become the Vice President for the remainder of the year.
- c.) AJ – requested the CRC to choose a nominating committee for the election of the new Vice-Chair position that is now vacant. The three volunteers are; Ed Groff, Glenn Null, and Sreekala Rajagopalan as the “nominating committee”. AJ will provide a date and time for the “nominating committee” to conduct the vote for the vice-chairperson.
- d.) More discussion on the “neighborhood complaints” presented by Glenn Null. AJ shared with the CRC group that he is trained to handle mediation discussions with problems in our neighborhoods. AJ trained at “The Center for Community Justice”. AJ suggested having all emails or contacts sent to him, and he will follow up with the individuals.
- e.) Ed Groff – Would like to see a revision to the form for the agenda items; He suggests having something like “future agenda items”? Ed noticed that certain items just disappeared off of the agenda – like (First Fridays). Maybe we should have like a “running agenda” and just have items stay on the “running agenda” until the CRC has completed the task. At the end of the month, the group would revisit the list, make any changes/additions/deletions that are necessary.
- f.) Ed Groff – Where does the CRC stand with corrections being made to the inaccurate Commissions list that was distributed, and when will it be updated and resubmitted? AJ

committee to having the “new” updated roaster emailed to all CRC members and necessary departments.

g.) AJ – Commented that he was sad to see Don Brown go and a little surprised by his abrupt departure. His skills will be missed by all. Sreekala also was surprised by the leaving of Don Brown.

h.) Youth advisor – had been reached by AJ, and they are having ongoing communications via email. Youth advisor has not yet attended a meeting.

Motion to Adjourn Motion by Cathie Cripe, Second by Judith Davis

Adjourn 7:55 pm