



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monday, November 8, 2021 – 7 p.m.

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

This meeting will be held in person and via zoom.

PRESENT: Malik Cato, Cathie Cripe, AJ Delgadillo, Ed Groff, and Glenn Null

ON ZOOM: Michele Fan-Fairy Steury, Sreekala Rajagopalan

ALSO PRESENT: Megan Eichorn (Council Liaison) and Steve Bermudez (Youth Advisor).

Meeting called to order: (7:09 pm)

Call to Order & Opening

Roll Call and introduction of visitor: (Adrian Mora, Youth Advisor).

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

Reviewed the agenda (Approved) **(Accepted by consent)**

Review Minutes from October 11, 2021 (Minutes Accepted by consent)

Current Treasurer's Report – Oct. 31st. current balance at \$9,957.03. AJ sent out his 2022 budget wish list to the group for review. Ed Groff questioned; had the amount been approved by the city council for 2022? AJ intended to send both his wish list and the actual approved 2022 budget. AJ confirmed that 23,200 dollars were approved by the city council. Ed Groff requested to have AJ realign his wish list with the actual budget of 2022, and present updated information at a later date.

Comments: Glenn Null wanted to know if the facilitator at the retreat had been paid by the CRC, answer: No.

Comments: Glenn Null suggested leaving room in the budget for the community project, neighborhood meditators if required, etc. We should be driven by the community and not just administrative costs.

Comments: Cathy Cripe suggested that Glenn Null questions about budget distributions be discussed at a later date.

Comments: Ed Groff mentioned that the way the budget is set up now has quite a lot of flexibility and fluency in it.

New Business

1. Reflections on Chamberlain Neighborhood meeting: Ed Groff and Cathie Cripe attended the event. Ed Groff mentioned it was a good first connection and positive with two different Neighborhood associations, East Goshen and Chamberlin. There were 15-20 people in attendance. Ed and Cathie spent time introducing the CRC and getting to know the members of their group. Ed feels that

moving forward; the more we can strengthen our connections with the Neighborhood Associations, the better it will be for the CRC and community. Ultimately as we get to know them and they get to know us, it's a way for us then to be inviting different Neighborhood Associations to some of our events. Cathie Cripe stated the importance of attending all (N.A.) as much as possible. AJ attended the West Goshen Neighborhood Association per a request from Glenn Null with positive results.

For the Good of CRC- Community Comment – Nothing new for the Good of CRC

Reports and Statistics

1. **Council Liaison Report:** Megan has nothing new specific for the CRC tonight.
2. **Director's Report:** A follow-up from last month's meeting regarding Heather Bridger-Ulloa who wanted to do a project with Indigenous people day. Heather has reached out to several community members and a date has been set up to meet again in January. The goal is to see who all is interested and sketch out a plan from there. As the CRC members know of interested people, start thinking about that January meeting as the first place to get everyone acquainted and start thinking about what our ideas are, and start to whittle down what is practical.
 - AJ had an interesting conversation with Nick Keifer from the Goshen Chambers about a recent presentation put on at the Goshen Theater by two Economic Professors from Ball State University; talking about how an Evidence-based approach on how to grow the economy and the population. Starting with evidence, rather than assuming what will make that happen. One common theme was "A Quality of Life". Having a place where people want to live, what drives people to live here, drives demand, drives business growth. One way that AJ steered that conversation was to talk about extending the Diversity-Equity-Inclusion work into the community through the Chambers and using the Chambers as a megaphone.
 - The first half of our retreat was a day two of a four-day training he has been working on. The idea would be for AJ to present this to business leaders, knowing that a more inclusive and welcoming workplace is going to increase the quality of life and also increase the quality of services among the diverse populations, which will make Goshen a place more people want to live and thrive. AJ felt as though it was a good conversation about the intersection of business and racial and ethnic injustice.
- **Comments:** Cathie Cripe suggested that the CRC keeps its focus also as we think about the severe problem we have in our community of people not being understanding or unable to communicate to one another openly. She is unsure as to; how to move forward with Community Conversation, or how we want to do it, or what would be the best way. Cathie has heard about how the Goshen Community School Board meetings and how contentious they are. Cathie suggested; if anyone can do some research; so that we can find a way for us to use our positions in the community, to help with the matter.

Comments: Glenn Null thinks some of the communications issues come from the “Leadership wayward” mentalities. He has seen attitudes at the county level, people just forget how to be civil to one another. We use to be able to have a friendly conversation and able to “agree and agree to disagree”, and still be friends at the end of the conversation. Glenn Null is ready for this issue to go away at the level it is currently in.

Comments: Cathie’s feedback was; for all of the CRC to keep their eyes and ears open for something specific that we find is already starting to work in other places. Once we have a mass of resignations at the county levels, it’s all because people don’t know how to talk to one another. Cathie is offended that at any place in our community, that someone would stand up and say what they believe in, and from that; they receive “death threats”. Cathie wants to believe there is a (safe and effective) way to start a community conversation.

3. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Sundown Town Maker Subcommittee (Cathie, Glenn, Sreekala, Steve):

Comments by AJ: Was able to finish the draft of most of the summary. He was able to summarize the quantities of the things with numbers as well as coding all of the comments into themes, which was a much larger undertaking than originally thought to be. AJ was able to look at things at-a-glance to see what kind of things came up, and with what frequency; and that was very important. The subcommittee will make their recommendation and connect it to the summary, and get it to the full board. No meetings have been completed yet. should have updates for next month.

b. Community Conversation Subcommittee (Cathie, Michele, Malik): AJ and Jesse have had some conversations recently to try to think of an alternate form of community conversation with small groups that would meet. Without the school, liaison to connect us to the people, and the school as an apparatus of a volunteer body, we don’t have the people power needed.

Comments: Cathie Cripe suggested a way to bring a community conversation about for the CRC, was to have an “Essay” contest at the schools (middle and high school), where we would talk about community relations and how we treat one another. AJ was pleased with her suggestion.

Comments: Glenn Null mentioned that the CRC does have an (Education line) within the CRC funds.

Comments: Adrian Mora made an open suggestion from the floor as a guest speaker regarding the possible (essay) contest. He suggested having used one or more topics from the CRC Principals. Adrian questioned if used; would there be a word limit? Cathie

Cripe suggested to Adrian to continue with his thoughts along the subject line and get back with the CRC group. The tentative "Essay" contest idea would allow young voices to be heard in the community.

Comments: Sreekala Rajagopalan asked the CRC committee if they would come up with something that could help all children no matter what race they come from, and to learn and perform respect, acceptance for one another.

Comments: Megan Eichorn is onboard with the "Essay" idea since she is part of the communications department for the schools. Lori Miller would love to see the community conversation come back, as she played a large part in prior community conversation gatherings. Megan also supports the idea that AJ has mentioned, that the community conversations will and do require a new format before moving forward.

- c. Special Events Subcommittee (Michele, Sreekala, Malik):**
Nothing New to report.

Special Activity: SWOT to Action: The Group performed a verbal discussion/screen exercise with AJ as they go through the topics listed on the SWOT sheet to place them in categories prioritizing them as upcoming activities and the pros and cons to those topics if/when they are performed.

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

1. Reminders and Upcoming Events

a. Spread the word about applying to the CRC.

- Cathie Cripe mentioned for this topic; it's best to have a candidate that feels called to serve as a member of (Group) efforts and community-based.
- Glenn Null has a neighbor that might be interested in applying, exiting members be sure to guide your interested applicant to the city website, and the CRC Facebook page.
- AJ instructed the group where to find the CRC / Commissions application on the city website: [goshenindiana.org/gov/Boards & Commissions/just below](http://goshenindiana.org/gov/Boards & Commissions/just below;); Application for City Board or Commission Appointment

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Glenn Null, Second by Malik Cato.

Adjourn 8:31 pm