

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 - 7pm. Goshen City Hall

CRC mission: Our mission is to foster a climate of positive community relationships and non-discrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment, and access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property.

CRC members present: Jose Rocha, David Araujo, Glenn Null, Evan Miller, Sreekala Rajagopalan, Michele Fanfair-Steury. Absent: Lizzy Diaz, Julia King (City Council liaison)

Others present: Darin Short, CRC consultant

1. Call to Order & Opening
 - a. Review of the CRC Mission and Principles
 - b. Introduction of visitors, Angie Troyer was present.
 - c. Review the agenda – Evan suggested we move Ground Rules for welcoming public comment (originally number 3) to immediately after CRC Retreat Planning (originally number 6).
Everyone agreed to this change.
2. July minutes were reviewed and approved.
3. For the Good of the CRC (public comment) – no comments were made by the public.
4. CRC Visioning – Evan posed the following questions during the July meeting in anticipation of this discussion:
 - a. Three years from now, how will Goshen be different as a result of our work as a commission?
 - b. How will we (and the community) know (measure) that we've been successful?

Commissioners were challenged to ask these questions of at least one other community member.

Following are some of the responses to these questions:

- i. Goshen will be uncommonly good at dialogue and conversation (this idea seemed to receive a lot of support)
- ii. Non-discrimination practices will be supported and utilized by City agencies.
- iii. Goshen will have more and affordable housing
- iv. Some community members struggle to name how Goshen will be different as a result of the work of the CRC.
- v. Goshen won't be better even if the CRC is successful.
- vi. Latinos will feel safe.
- vii. All City employees will follow Mayor Stutsman's leading regarding being an open and welcoming community.
- viii. We will see more opportunities like the Taste of Goshen, The Maple City Cultural Festival, Encuentro in the Alley, etc.
- ix. There will be broader and more participation in terms of cross-cultural conversations. In particular it was mentioned we will see more engagement by the affluent members of our community.
- x. The Latino population and the poor population will come to CRC public events and activities.
- xi. Goshen will simply be different as a result of providing educational opportunities regarding subjects the CRC would bring to the public's attention.

- xii. The diverse youth of today (i.e., the large number of diverse backgrounds among our youth) will simply make our community different.
- xiii. Young families will want to come and start families here.
- xiv. Since diversity will not be going away, we envision that even those apathetic towards or against diversity will be comfortable.

No decisions were made in this meeting, but these topics will be picked up again at our strategic planning retreat.

Evan also proposed an idea that would address some of the structural challenges for the CRC. This idea came out of discussions involving a bi-partisan group of City Councilors Julia King and Brett Weddell, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, Evan Miller, Lizzy Diaz, and Darin Short. In summary the proposal suggested that the CRC look at contracting out the portion of the ordinance that allows the CRC to process discrimination complaints. Although no vote was taken, the CRC as a whole did decide we should look further into this possibility.

5. CRC Planning Retreat – The commission decided to consider dates during the week as opposed to a weekend since the original effort to identify a Saturday did not yield 100% availability. The group determined Oct. 2/3 or 30/31 will work. Darin will contact Phil Thomas to see if either of these pairs of dates work for him to join us as facilitator.
6. Ground rules for welcoming public comment – Glenn moved to create subcommittee to develop a resolution regarding how we will engage with a community member who comes to share something with the CRC and setting expectations for community members regarding their engagement with the CRC; Sreekala seconded; passed unanimously. Evan, Glenn, Sreekala and Darin will meet to create a draft for the entire CRC to consider.
7. Reports and Statistics – 2 calls came into the CRC voicemail. One involved a neighborhood dispute between an elderly Russian gentleman and two school-aged Latina girls. This dispute eventually resolved itself. Another call came from a Mexican man who indicated he felt he was discriminated against by a local business on U.S. 33 on the south end of town. Darin spoke with the gentleman and informed him the CRC could help coordinate mediation, he could take his claim to the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and/or he could come tell the CRC about this experience. We have not since heard back from this gentleman.
8. Treasurer’s report – The Diversity Day fund balance was not listed in any of the reports. Glenn will inquire as to why it was not there.
9. Announcements by CRC members, closing comments, reflections on the meeting
10. Setting next meeting date – David moved to change the September meeting to Sept. 18 from Sept. 11, the originally scheduled date; Sreekala seconded; motion carried 5-1 with Glenn saying he would like to keep the meeting on Sept. 11. The meeting will start at the usual time of 7:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

To Do: Darin post sign on City Hall on Sept. 11 letting the community know the date was changed to Sept. 18.