



**Community Relations Board**

241 West South Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4796  
Phone: 269.337.8046  
Fax: 269.337.8182  
www.kalamazoo-city.org

**Thursday, July 8, 2004**  
First Floor Assessor's Conference Room  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Meeting Minutes – Approved**

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** –
  - A. Members Present: Lynwood Bartley, Kirsten Enstice, Alexandria Osborne, Maia Storm, Rebecca Westphal
  - B. Members Not Present – Jorge Rodriguez (excused), Michael Wilson (unexcused)
  - C. Others Present – City Liaison Ashley Pierson
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – July 8, 2004 – Agenda approved with no changes.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes** – June 3, 2004 – Minutes approved with one change of replacing “Maia” with “Alev” in the Smartshop agenda item.
- V. **Discussion of Agenda Items**
  - A. Annual Report
    1. Storm will finish the Annual Report and send it to City Liaison Pierson by Friday, July 16. Pierson will add attachments and format into acceptable style and will send out the final draft to members for their comments by Friday, July 23. Members will have one week to send their comments/changes. By Friday, July 30, the final copy will be sent to the appropriate City offices and administration.

B. Subcommittee Update

1. Enstice's subcommittee has not met yet, although they have communicated through email. The idea they came up with is the Town Hall meeting, to get the City talking (citizens, officials, community groups). One big event for the year would be better to plan, as it is already July. The details could be worked out in the subcommittee. Motion to have a Town Hall meeting become the major focus of outreach and have Enstice's subcommittee work out the details for the next meeting was approved.
2. Westphal's subcommittee met and came up with five general ideas/goals: a) Educational outreach to Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), b) Tax resolution discussion, looking at preparing the resolution discussed in April when Commissioner Cooney was present, c) Collaboration with the Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC) or the Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) on housing and/or anti-poverty issues, d) Collaborating with the Summit on Racism, and e) Collaborating with one or both of the Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Kalamazoo. After some discussion of what these goals mean and entail, Westphal agreed that she will follow up with Akbulut's actions to KPS and get the KPS representative at the August meeting. She will work with Bartley, who volunteered his time to the Tax Resolution. She will also look into both ISAAC and MOP and make that goal more concrete. It was decided that the CRB will wait to decide on collaboration with the Summit on Racism until September, as right now the Summit is still in its planning phases.

C. CRB Member Response from Chair on CRB Commitment

1. Wilson called to report he would not be coming to the meeting. All other members have expressed their commitments to serve and those not present called the City Manager's Office to inform the Board that they would not be attending the evening's meeting.

D. Resignations of Alev Akbulut and Ronnie Thompson

1. The Board agreed that the City should, if possible, send thank-you letters to the two former members listed above. City Liaison Pierson will look into the issue and send letters, if appropriate.

E. Membership Issues and Potential Nominees

1. City Liaison Pierson brought up the issue of City residents versus non-city residents as board members. The rule is that the majority of the board be comprised of City residents. The CRB currently has five non-City residents and two City residents and must make sure that any new members are City residents to comply with City procedure.
2. The Board agreed to have the City Liaison make announcements that the CRB has two vacancies via all appropriate channels. As the City Clerk's Office keeps applications of people willing to serve on City boards, the City Liaison will bring copies of these applications, if possible, for the viewing of the Board at the next meeting.

F. Update by Chair and Enstice on Meeting with Mayor

1. Osborne described how the past letter sent to the Commission was only a draft, and that it was a mistake to have sent it. Thus, the letter that she would like to send is a final copy of that letter, including information from the more recent meeting with the Mayor which took place in late June between the Mayor, Osborne, and Enstice. Osborne, at the Mayor's request, drafted two letters for the Mayor's signature to be sent to Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Janice Brown and to City Manager Pat DiGiovanni informing them of the direction the CRB is taking regarding the public schools. City Liaison Pierson informed the Board that the letters cannot be sent until Deputy City Manager Durham speaks to the Mayor regarding their content. The City Liaison was asked to follow up with these letters and inform the CRB as to their status. The CRB requested that if changes are necessary to the letters, Mr. Durham would email the CRB explaining the changes and their necessity.

G. Public Relations Brochure

1. Christina Greer, former City Liaison, had made a brochure for the CRB. The Board would like the brochure updated and approximately 500 copies made for distribution. City Liaison Pierson should look into this and, if possible, bring a copy of the updated brochure to August's meeting for approval by the Board.

H. CRB Responsiveness

1. This agenda item was not discussed with the approval of the Board.

I. City Commission

1. This agenda item was not discussed with the approval of the Board.

J. Cool Cities Representation

1. Former member Akbulut was the Cool Cities representative for the Board. As Deputy City Manager Durham was the one who requested the existence of a Cool Cities representative on the Board, City Liaison Pierson is requested to discover if a representative is still desired or needed and inform the CRB at the August meeting.

VI. **On-Going Issues**

VII. **Community Involvement Opportunities**

VIII. **Other Business/Announcements**

- A. Osborne will be unable to chair the meetings beginning in September due to classes. The Board does not wish for her resignation. Storm and Bartley will be co-chairs beginning September until further discussion of the subject. It is understood that Osborne will be unable to attend any meetings that occur during the fall semester and those absences are excused. The Board agreed to have Storm and Bartley be temporary co-chairs from September through December.

IX. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

X. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The next meeting of the Community Relations Board will be:  
Thursday, August 12, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.  
Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall