



Community Relations Board

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Thursday, August 12, 2004
Third Floor Conference Room
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** –
 - A. Members Present: Lynwood Bartley, Kirsten Enstice, Alexandria Osborne, Maia Justine Storm, Rebecca Westphal
 - B. Members Not Present – Jorge Rodriguez (excused), Michael Wilson (unexcused)
 - C. Others Present – City Commissioner David Juarez, City Liaison Ashley Pierson
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – August 12, 2004 – Agenda approved with no changes.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes** – July 8, 2004 – Minutes approved with two changes: adding “excused” and “unexcused” to the roll call and changing the wording of “Movement” in VIII. A. to “The Board agreed.”
- V. **Discussion of Agenda Items**
 - A. Annual Report
 1. The annual report was sent to the City Liaison on Thursday, August 12. Liaison Pierson will check on Monday to see if any suggestions from board members have been made. If there are none, then she will continue with the formatting and submittal process. This will be completed by Thursday, August 19.
 - B. Community Forums Subcommittee Update

1. Enstice reported that this subcommittee has not met to discuss the issue of the Town Meeting. Some suggestions were made for the Town Meeting, such as perhaps the use of the Kalamazoo Public Library's VanDeusen room and that the meeting should be less formal than a City Commission meeting. The issue of how many commissioners could attend a meeting was brought up. Enstice will investigate the issue. To facilitate this, Liaison Pierson will send Enstice a copy of the Open Meetings Act.
2. A discussion of the role of outreach in the mission of the Community Relations Board and the Citizen's Public Safety and Review Board occurred. As Chair Osborne serves on the other Board, it was moved that she inform the CPSRB that outreach should be a shared effort, as it is not the exclusive domain of this committee, and that the CRB would welcome collaborative efforts. Motion approved by a quorum. Osborne abstained from the vote.

C. Issues Affecting the Community Subcommittee Update

1. Regarding the Kalamazoo Public Schools representative, nothing was ever scheduled, as Akbulut resigned. Alex Lee, the KPS representative, will confirm his attendance at next month's meeting. Liaison Pierson draws the Board's attention to the letter from Dr. Janice Brown included in the agenda packet. Westphal will call and schedule with Dr. Brown. Westphal details her conversation with Alex Lee. The issue to bring up to KPS is "What sorts of programs do you have to educate students and teachers on different ethnicities and backgrounds?" Westphal has asked KPS for information on what KPS has been doing for outreach to different populations.

D. Membership Issues and Potential Nominees

1. Liaison Pierson reported that there were no applications for the Board to consider. The Board discussed what people should be targeted for application/membership. There is a need to make contact with the NAACP and the African-American population in the City.

E. Update on Mayor and Chair Letters

1. Liaison Pierson reported that all letters are attached. The letters from the Mayor have been sent, with the only changes being the date, and a response has been received from Dr. Janice Brown of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

F. Public Relations Brochure

1. The brochure was proofread with some small changes agreed upon by the Board. Liaison Pierson will make changes and print 500 copies for distribution.

G. Cool Cities Representation

1. The City is in the process of forming a separate board regarding this issue. More will be known in mid-September. Until then, this item will be left on the agenda.

VI. On-Going Issues

- A. There were no reports on on-going issues.

VII. Community Involvement Opportunities

- A. Chair Osborne distributed letter from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee of the Michigan Region to Frances Jewell, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Kalamazoo. The letter asks for support in the organizing of the first Arab-American festival in Kalamazoo in June or July 2005. Motion for the CRB to give their support to the effort was approved unanimously. It was agreed that a letter should be written in support; Storm will write the letter, while vice-chair Bartley should sign.

VIII. Other Business/Announcements

- A. Materials on Kinship were distributed by Liaison Pierson. The Summit on Racism was briefly discussed.

IX. Public Comment

- A. There was no public comment.

X. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Community Relations Board will be:
September 9, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.
Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall