



Community Relations Board
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Thursday, September 9, 2004
Third Floor Conference Room – City Hall
5:30pm – 7pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm.

II. Roll Call

A. *Members Present:* Lynwood Bartley, Kirsten Enstice, Maia Justine Storm, Jorge Rodriguez

B. *Members Not Present:* Rebecca Westphal (unexcused), Alexandria Osborne (excused), Michael Wilson (unexcused)

C. *Others Present:* City Commissioner David Juarez, City Liaison Alfrelynn J. Roberts

III. Approval of Agenda – August 12, 2004

Agenda approved with no changes

IV. Approval of Minutes - September 9, 2004

Minutes approved with no changes

V. Discussion of Agenda Items

A. Kalamazoo Public Schools Representative

The special session with Dr. Janice Brown has been scheduled for September 20, 2004. There was a discrepancy about the time of the meeting. The City Liaison will contact Dr. Brown's Office and confirm her attendance and the time of the meeting. The City Liaison will also send a reminder email to the Board and ask members to RSVP.

B. Discussion of KPS and Potential Next Steps with this outreach

Tabled until October meeting.

C. Annual Report

Copies were made available to the Board. City Liaison will confirm delivery of copies of report to City Commission.

D. Community Forums Subcommittee Update

The Board discussed the strength of a town hall meeting opposed to a general meeting for citizens to express their opinions about the community. The format and success of previous programs such as Community Outreach focusing on the Arab & Hispanic American communities were discussed.

Mr. Bartley voiced his concern about the presence of Commissioners at the community meetings as their presence might negatively encumber open discussions.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested having at least one town hall meeting a year and combining efforts with other commissions such as the neighborhood police task force. Mr. Rodriguez also suggested that the CRB could hear the concern of special interest groups at regularly scheduled CRB meetings.

Discussions continued. Ms. Storm suggested that to satisfy the commitment the CRB made to the community, the group could sponsor an additional Community Outreach program and then focus on the town hall model in 2005. The community sequence includes focus groups in the African American, student, gay/lesbian and Native American communities. The next Community Outreach program would target the African American community.

E. Issues Affecting the Community Subcommittee Update

Ms. Enstice will meet with subcommittee and begin organizing the next Community Outreach program.

Commissioner Juarez discussed the Washington/Edison Neighborhood and the growing number of African Americans residing in the area. He suggested that in addition to the NAACP efforts should be made to contact organizations and people that represent a varied, cross section of African Americans in this community. Churches and recreation center directors were mentioned. Ms. Storm will provide NAACP information to Ms. Enstice.

F. Membership Issues and Potential Nominees

The Board reviewed the 3 applications of potential members provided by Deputy City Manager Durham. During discussions, it was determined that there were 3 positions available. It was also determined that the applicants should be Kalamazoo residents as there are 3 members on the Board currently living outside of the City of Kalamazoo. The City Liaison stated that the next issue of **The Connecting** (the City's newsletter) will go out next week and additional applicants could surface from the ad in the publication. Final decisions about new applicants were tabled until the October meeting.

The attendance policy and general requirements for current Board members was discussed as well. It was determined that a member could only have 3 unexcused absences. It was determined that Mr. Wilson had missed more than 3 meetings and would be asked to resign from his position.

G. Public Relations Brochure

The brochures were completed and available for the Board members. The City Liaison will place brochures in the City Managers Office as well as the City Clerk's Office (where the applications can be picked up by citizens.)

H. Cool Cities Representation

The final Cool Cities Celebration is Thursday, September 16 from 4:30pm-7pm at 516 E. North Street. Invitations were included in the packet of information distributed by Deputy City Manager Durham.

I. Update on CRB Support Letter for Arab-American Festival

Ms. Storm is still composing the letter for Mr. Bartley to sign. The letter will be sent to the City Liaison to be placed on City letterhead before distribution.

- VI. On-Going Issues**
- VII. Community Involvement**
- VIII. Other Business/Announcements**
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Adjournment**

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2004
Human Resources Training Room - City Hall 3rd Floor
5:30pm – 7pm