



Community Relations Board  
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## Community Relations Board Monthly Meeting

Monday, July 11, 2005

Conference Room (Room 300) - City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

5:30pm - 7pm

### Minutes - Final

#### I. Call to Order

Ms. Rebecca Westphal called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

#### II. Discussion of Agenda Items

##### A. *Speaker: Sherita Edwards* – Informational presentation regarding the community organization ISAAC

Ms. Edwards discussed the initiatives with which ISAAC (*Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community*) is currently involved. She gave the history & national affiliation organization The Gamiliel Foundation located in Chicago. ISAAC is about building relationships in 2004 and their Initiatives included Housing, Education and Healthcare. Group also work on Immigrant rights, Mental Health Parity & Land Use. The Group works in conjunction with other local agencies like Housing Resources, Inc. (i.e., Landlord/Tax-Credit Pilot Project) & other local social service organizations. This year, ISAAC will focus on recruitment & leadership. Ms. Westphal asked how CRB could be helpful to the organization. Ms. Edwards asked that the group work with ISAAC will be issue dependant & suggested that CRB could work with other organizations to and partner on projects that can help the organization.

#### III. Roll Call

*Members Present:* Amanda Grove, Kirsten Enstice, Rebecca Westphal, Maia Storm,

*Members Not Present:* Stephanie Coulter (Excused), Jorge Rodriguez (Excused)

*Others Present:* City Liaison Alfrelynn J. Roberts, Sherita Edwards, Executive Director, ISAAC

*Others Not Present:* City Commissioner David Juarez

#### IV. Approval of Agenda – July 11, 2005

Agenda approved with amendments

Addition:

VI. Discussion of Agenda Items, I. Michigan Commission on Civil Rights Discussion

#### V. Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2005

Minutes Approved with amendment

Section V. A. *Affordable Housing Initiative: Speaker-Ellen Kisinger Rothie, Executive Director-Housing Resources, Inc.*

Section removed

**VI. Discussion of Agenda Items**

**B. New Member Discussion – New Applicant: James Rodbard**

Group discussed the candidate's current conflict of interest. Although the applicant is a strong candidate and would be a great asset, the CRB decided that an appointment at the time would not be ideal.

**C. Affordable Housing Initiative – City Recommendation; CRB Action Determination**

Action tabled until August meeting so that Board could have an opportunity to read City Housing recommendations.

**D. Community Liaison – Position Recommendation Discussion**

Action tabled until August meeting.

**E. Student Relations**

Ms. Grove will take initiative back to WMU Student Government Association & ask members from the WMU Board to address the CRB on issues relevant to the student population in Kalamazoo. CRB also expressed interest in approaching other WMU student government members to fill one of the vacancies on the CRB.

**F. Kalamazoo Public Schools Diversity Initiative Update**

Action tabled until August meeting.

**G. Citizens Public Safety Review & Appeals Board Examination**

No Discussion

**H. City Liaison Update**

No Discussion

**I. Michigan Commission on Civil Rights Discussion**

MI Commission on Civil Rights will meet to discuss migrant farm workers rights in August. Group would like Mayor to write (& read) proclamation during at a press conference prior to the Conference. Ms. Enstice will handle the compilation of the information for the proclamation and will contact the Mayor for his approval.

**VII. On-Going Issues**

The letter to the Mayor about Commission representation was postponed as the Commission is meeting every Monday until December. In order to accommodate the Commission, it was suggested that the group change the meeting date from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. The CL will let Commissioner Juarez know that the date has been changed.

**VIII. Community Involvement**

No Discussion

**IX. Other Business/Announcements**

No Discussion

**X. Public Comment**

No Discussion

**XI. Adjournment**

Ms. Westphal adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 2, 2005 · Conference Room (Room 300) – City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor · 5:30pm – 7pm**