



## Community Relations Board

241 West South Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4796  
Phone: 269.337.8047  
Fax: 269.337.8182  
www.kalamazoocity.org

### Community Relations Board General Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
5:30pm – 7:00pm

### FINAL Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Mr. Hepp, Acting Chair.

#### II. Roll Call

*Members Present:* Nicholas Boyd, Kevin Ford, John Garry, Orman Gordon, Brent Hepp

*Members Not Present:* Bre Austin (unexcused), Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth (unexcused)

*Others Present:* David Anderson (City Commission Liaison), Alfrelynn Roberts (City Liaison)

#### III. Public Comment

Acknowledgement of visitor from State Department (Troy Seabolt) and Frenchmen/TV Editor Omara Barry-Business Initiative Africa

#### IV. Approval of Agenda – August 13, 2009

Approved without amendment

#### V. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2009

Approved without amendment

#### VI. Discussion of Agenda Items

##### A. Chair Resignation

- Steve Gerike resigned from CRB via email correspondence to the Board. Vice Chair Ford agreed to succeed Mr. Gerike and Nicholas Boyd was nominated and accepted the position as Vice Chair.

##### B. Community Forums Regarding Budget

- CRB concerned about aggressive timeline and the potential of poor turn-out and low response as in the past when given this task in the past by City Administration. CRB discussed what would be considered a successful forum. CRB discussed other effective ways that could generate a better response from community including a telephone survey with about 4-6 questions, a survey at one of the remaining festivals as well as neighborhood meetings. CL will run ideas by CM and contact Mr. Boyd as he will take lead on this project.

**C. Member Application (Lance Ferraro)**

- CRB discussed hesitation to add people to the Board when future of Board is uncertain. Mr. Garry will draft a letter to Mr. Ferraro for the Chair's signature that will thank him for his application, explain the circumstances of the Board's existence and efforts to redefine its mission and guarantee a future response when issues have been addressed.

**VII. On-Going Issues**

- Purpose of the Committee – Mr. Garry drafted a letter in July for the Board's review. Group discussed the letter and agreed that a hybrid letter should be drafted to include a timeline for City Commission response (September 10), the intent of CRB to strengthen their commitment to its mission of buffering race relations and having ultimate buy-in and support from City Commission.
- Excessive Absences – CRB is concerned with the excessive absences of Ms. Austin. CL will send a letter/email including a time frame for response inquiring about Ms. Austin's intentions.

**VIII. Community Involvement**

No Discussion

**IX. Other Business/Announcements**

No Discussion

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Ford adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 10, 2009 · **LOCATION:** Community Room (Room 202) – City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor · **TIME:** 5:30pm – 7pm