

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio  
May 1, 2007

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on May 1, 2007.

Chairperson Greenwell presided over the meeting. Attending the meeting were the following members of the Committee: Nickie Antonio (Councilperson At-Large), Sean Brennan, Don Carlson, Moira Dugan, Steve Greenwell, David Howard, D. L. Meckes, Anila Nicklos, Chris Serger, Lisa Shaffer-Gill and Kyle Weigand. Mr. Blaine Griffin of the City of Cleveland's Community Relations Board was invited to speak to the Commission and was in attendance at approximately 7:15 p.m. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, Chairperson Greenwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. local time.

Attendance was taken and reintroductions took place.

A brief discussion of a "World Flags" event for the Fourth of July parade sponsored by the Commission took place. Suggestions were to have someone (or families) from all nationalities represented in the Lakewood Schools march in the parade carrying her/her/their nationality's flag. All agreed this idea was good, but will table for next year due to time constraints and organizational issues.

The general purpose and direction of the Commission was discussed. It was decided that a brainstorming session was in order and would be discussed further at the June meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Serger discussed the "Survey" subcommittee progress. It was decided that there are many ways to distribute a survey to the residents by utilizing water bills, the Observer, press releases, etc. Further discussion will take place in the future.

Mr. Blaine Griffin of the City of Cleveland's Community Relations Board arrived and led a discussion of Cleveland's board with the Commission. Topics of conversation were varied and as follows:

- Introductions
- "Regionalism" across the metropolitan area, including issues Clevelanders face and subsequently, suburbanites will face in the future
- Diversity of the Board itself being the most important aspect of setting up a Community Relations Board

- Promotion of quality of life issues by building bridges from the government to the citizens
- Police activity and community relations concerning same is the most important issue to Cleveland residents at the present time – police must interact with the citizens throughout all wards, and visa versa – build trust
- Chat Packs (community dialogs between culturally different neighbors) in order to improve understanding and to co-exist in peace
- Diversity training within the community through storeowners and business owners – train the police cadets in the same manner; to be tolerant and knowledgeable about other cultures
- Crisis intervention teams – set in place to prevent overreaction to various incidents (i.e. a police shooting etc.) – also deals with tragedy compassion when major events occur that effect an entire community of residents
- Provide mediation services between feuding neighbors
- Block clubs/street clubs to enhance togetherness and neighborly activity

Meeting date was set for June 5, 2007.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Chairperson Greenwell declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kyle A. Weigand, Secretary  
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory  
Commission