

Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2008

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission

Members Present: Nickie Antonio, Don Carlson, Anila Nicklos, Moira Dugan, Joe Lobo* , Litha Macon's* proxy – Grace Givens, Paula Maeder-Connor* , dl Meckes, and Lisa Shaffer-Gill.

Members Excused: Nahida Farunia, Steve Greenwell, David Howard, Chris Serger, and Kyle Weigand.

The meeting started with introductions and the welcoming of new members (names marked with *). The mission statement and was read to get the group centered and reminded of the mission. DI motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting on 6/10/08. Don seconded the motion. The new members were introduced by Nickie. Joe Lobo* shared the title of a book that the school board bought for all the teachers at Lakewood High School – Courageous Conversation About Race by G. Singleton and C. Linton.

Nickie Antonio gave an update on the data base/webpage. Goal is to have a link from the city website to show all the great things we have to offer in Lakewood. Don Carlson shared the welcome packet that is sent out to new homeowners. Our commission could add a flyer to that packet to tell new homeowners about our work. We need to look at ways to reach new renters. Maybe through the schools? Melissa Garret from city hall will be asked to present at the next meeting about how new citizens are reached. This committee includes Don, Kyle and Nickie.

The speaker's series sub-committee has not met, but needs too. The hope is to still have Deborah Plummer, CEO of the Diversity Office at the Cleveland Clinic be our "kick off" speaker. She wrote a book entitled Racing Across the Lines, Changing Race Relations Through Friendship. She could give a nice umbrella overview of race relations and then we could build on that with specific issue speakers. This committee is Anila, Moira, Steve, Don

The community conversation committee needs to meet. The Diversity Potluck from the Summer was considered a success with 60 people in attendance. Joe reports that the LHS students who helped out are still talking about it.

Comments were offered about partnering with other Lakewood entities like Jack Gustin, CEO of Lakewood Hospital. The hospital has their own Diversity Council. Also, Walter from Community Progress Corp. lives in Lakewood. His corporation works with funding for community development.

Next meeting is October 14, 2008. This will be an open house so feel free to invite someone.

Respectfully submitted by substitute secretary, Moira Dugan