

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio  
February 10, 2009

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on February 10, 2009.

Commission-member Weigand presided over the meeting. Attending the meeting were the following members of the Commission: Nickie Antonio (Lakewood City Councilwoman At-Large), Donald Carlson, Paula Maeder Connor, Moira Dugan, Nahida Farunia, Steven Greenwell, Joe Loboizzo, Litha Macon, Dan Saracina, April Stoltz and Kyle Weigand. Melissa Garrett from the City's Community Relations office was also present. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. local time.

Attendance was taken.

The Mission Statement of the Commission was recited.

All Commission members were reintroduced to one another, including introductions of the newly appointed members of the Commission.

Mr. Weigand moved to postpone the approval of the minutes of the November and January meetings of the Commission; Mr. Carlson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of new Commission chairs/officers ensued and the following new officers we elected unanimously:

- Mr. Weigand was nominated to continue as Secretary; Mr. Loboizzo seconded
- Mr. Carlson was nominated to Co-Chairperson; Mr. Loboizzo seconded
- Ms. Maeder Connor was nominated to Co-Chairperson; Mr. Loboizzo seconded
- Ms. Stoltz was nominated to Co-Chairperson; Mr. Loboizzo seconded

Committee Reports:

Speakers Series – Discussion of the first speaker and how to execute the idea and how to effectively invite the community was essentially tabled until a later Spring meeting so the Commission could better focus on the upcoming Facing History event.

Facing Our History (a speakers series that is conducted in the schools in the region) was discussed extensively – the event is coming to Lakewood Hospital and co-sponsored by the Hospital, the City and the School District. Sonia Nazario will be discussing her book *Enrique's Journey* and there is expected to be 200+ persons in attendance. The Commission is an additional sponsor of the event and will produce and provide a book mark “advertising” our next event (see below) and logo to all event goers.

It was reiterated that it was imperative that the Commission lead the way in helping to spread the word about the Facing Our History event and each Commission member decided that he/she would try and get as many people to attend the event as possible.

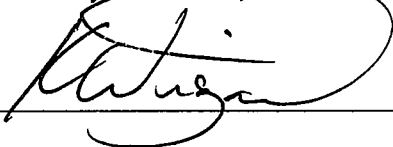
In conjunction with the Facing Our History speaker event at the Hospital, it was decided unanimously to hold a facilitated Community Conversations event approximately 4-5 weeks after the Hospital event. The conversation would focus on immigration in Lakewood and it would be based on an open conversation about all things immigration-related that affect those that are Lakewood residents. The Commission members generally felt that while diversity as a whole is a very important topic for a community conversation, narrowing it down to this specific immigration topic would be a better focus and provide a nice transition from the Facing History topic.

The Commission decided at this point, as to focus more intently on the goals of the subgroups, to divide the Commission into two distinct subgroups. Carlson, Dugan, Greenwell, LoboZZo, Stoltz and Weigand will be on the Speakers Series subgroup and Farunia, Macon, Maeder Connor, Saracina and Antonio would be on the Community Conversations subgroup. Subgroups will meet on an as-needed basis.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is to be held March 10, 2009.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Mr. Carlson motioned the meeting adjourned and Mr. Weigand seconded.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kyle A. Weigand, Secretary  
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory  
Commission