

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio  
May 12, 2009

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on May 12, 2009.

Attending the meeting were the following members of the Commission: Donald Carlson, Paula Maeder Connor, Moira Dugan, Steven Greenwell, Joe Loboizzo, Greg Mahoney, Dan Saracina, April Stoltz and Kyle Weigand. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, Chairperson Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. local time and presided over the same.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance was taken.

Approval of the minutes from the April, 2009 meeting of the Commission were was motioned by Mr. Carlson; Mr. Loboizzo seconded; unanimously approved.

Committee Reports began:

Community Speakers Series subgroup –

The Speakers Series subgroup met to discuss ideas and dates for upcoming events. It was reported that October 2009 and February 2010 would be good months for another speaker event. Ideas for the topic and speakers included "Cultural Competency" with Bill Avery and Molly Holland and "Racing Across the Lines" with Deborah Plumber. Subgroup members will contact these speakers to find out more details and their availability etc.

The idea of having sponsorships or partnerships with both the Commission and the Speakers Series was discussed. It was decided that if monetary support was necessary (or further exposure for advertising etc.) then possibly a sponsor might be in order. Mr. Greenwell volunteered to inquire with Lakewood Foundation for to determine the foundation's policy on money distribution.

Community Conversations subgroup –

The commission discussed the "Conversation About Immigration in Lakewood" that took place at City Hall on April 30, 2009 in conjunction with the past speaker event (Enrique's Journey and Sonia Nozario). The Commission members in attendance at the

conversation decided that although the attendance by the community at the event was less than what was originally intended, the event was successful because the conversation that came from the groups in the event was meaningful and relative to Immigration in Lakewood.

It was further discussed that maybe tying in the conversation event announcements with the block watch meetings throughout the city would be an effective way to get those already passionate and involved with the city to the conversation events. A commission member volunteered to contact Terri Richards (CERT) to try to explain the idea of trying to maximize the community relations aspect of the block clubs.

A brief discussion of the pot-luck event that the Commission held at the Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion too place. Possible summer dates were discussed.

The commission engaged in a discussion about "Choosing to Participate," a national event coming to the Western Reserve Historical Society October 2009-February 2010. The intention of the exhibit is to teach people about human behavior, how can one and how should one participate in the fight of injustice, intolerance etc. It also addresses how one can be an "upstander." An upstander is a person who has decided to take on issues that may not only affect him/her personally, but those around him/her as well. The person has had a positive impact on the community that they live in and the person's actions are worthy of mimicking. One can nominate an upstander in Ohio by going to the group's website at [www.choosingtoparticipate.org](http://www.choosingtoparticipate.org).

A discussion lead by Mr. Lobozzo regarding "Not in our Town" documentary took place. In short, the documentary showed how Billings, MT stopped hate groups from taking over the city by standing together for the cause, regardless of race, religion etc. The rhetorical question was asked "what do you have to sacrifice in order to show unity with your neighbors and your community?" Even though others in the town were harassed by the hate groups, eventually it ceased because everyone united against it. Eventually, this process lead to the creation of the "Not in our Schools" campaign, which will feature video of students from Lakewood schools and be featured in the Western Reserve exhibit and possibly nationwide.

A brief discussion ensued on how to attain better participation from the community as a whole for all events related to the Commission.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is to be held ~~September 8~~, 2009. JUNE 9

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Mr. Carlson motioned the meeting adjourn and Mr. Weigand seconded. Motion passed unanimously.