

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio
March 9, 2010

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on March 9, 2010.

Attending the meeting were the following members of the Commission: Greg Mahoney, Joe Lobo, April Stoltz, Kyle Weigand, Litha Macon, Dan Saracina, Gayle Wellman, Nadahl Eadah, Barbara Schwartz. Melissa Garrett from the Office of Community Relations for the City of Lakewood was also in attendance. Carla Williams, a resident guest was also in attendance. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. local time.

- Introduction of new Commission Members:

For the benefit of their first meeting, Introductions were held for new Commission members, Gayle Wellman, Barbara Schwartz and Nadahl Eadah.

- Resignation of Commission Secretary:

Commission Secretary Kyle Weigand made a formal announcement that he will be resigning from the Commission due to other commitments he is pursuing. The Administration will begin the process of screening candidates of who would be a qualified replacement to Mr. Weigand as a member. A new Commission Secretary shall be determined at the next meeting. Members of the Commission thanked Mr. Weigand for his service and countless efforts to the City of Lakewood.

- Potluck follow up and ideas for future potlucks:

The annual diversity potluck was well attended and the Lakewood High School RAD students contributed to a high degree to ensure the success of the evening. Local businesses also contributed to a high degree to ensure the success of the evening. Mr. Weigand suggested that the Commission should set the goal to get 100 people to attend the next potluck. Members of the Commission also suggested that more co-sponsors should be recruited for future potlucks. Summer 2010 can be a next possible potluck date. \$ 28.00 was collected through private donations for the Lakewood High School Washington DC field trip.

- RAD outreach event:

Mr. Loboizzo reported that the Lakewood High School Race and Diversity group will be having an outreach event and fundraiser on April 16th. RAD's recent DC field trip was funded through private donations especially the Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Foundation.

- Future Commission projects and meetings:

Members of the Commission brainstormed possible projects the Commission can take part in. Members of the community are currently engaging in the topic of how to better provide outdoor Basketball opportunities in the city. Mr. Eadah is an involved member of the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee. In recent years due to the reconstruction of new Schools and complaints of unruly behaviors associated with the consequences that outdoor basketball has set as an image, outdoor basketball courts have disappeared from the City's landscape. Ms. Stoltz and Mr. Eadah suggested that the Commission should arrange a community conversations forum in regards to the discussion of outdoor basketball and other recreational opportunities in the City.

Members of the Commission unanimously agreed to adopt a new meeting calendar. The new meeting Calendar will encompass a BI-MONTHLY meeting schedule. For the remaining 2010 calendar year, meetings will be held in the months of May, July, September and November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garrett will update commission contact lists and meeting calendars. Other miscellaneous topics that were discussed were the Census, the upcoming school levy and an upcoming health care summit. Ms. Garrett stressed the importance of filling out and returning the census form that will be mailed to all households. It has been reported that the population for the City of Lakewood is in near danger of falling below 50,000 residents. If the City of Lakewood falls below 50,000 residents, Lakewood can possibly lose its status as an entitlement municipality by the Federal Government. If the City loses its status as an entitlement community, the City can lose various CDBG funding dollars that are used for street reconstruction, home improvement loans, etc.

Mr. Loboizzo stressed the importance of voting for the Lakewood City School levy on May 4th. If the levy does not pass, crucial cuts to programs and student services will have to be made. Failure of this levy can also jeopardize the school systems identity as an excellent school district.

Ms. Stoltz distributed an invite to a summit for the Health Care for all Ohioans Act. This summit will take place at Lorain County Community College in Elyria on Wednesday, March 24th 2010 from 6-8pm. This event is sponsored by the First Community Interfaith Institute of Ohio.

- Next meeting:

The next meeting for the Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 11 2010.

- Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 7:58 p.m. Ms. Stoltz motioned the meeting adjourned, Ms. Wellman seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory D. Mahoney, Interim Secretary
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission