

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio  
April 12, 2011

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on April 12, 2011.

Attending the meeting were the following members of the Commission: Greg Mahoney, April Stoltz, Paula Maeder Connor, Nadhal Eadah, Barbara Schwartz, Joe Lobozzo, Gayle Wellman, Malik Moore, Carla Williams, Nahida Farunia, Veronica Youngblood and Karen Kuramoto. Councilwoman Monique Smith and Melissa Garrett from the Office of Community Relations for the City of Lakewood were also in attendance. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. local time.

A reading and disposal of the amended March minutes was conducted.

Introductions were held for the benefit of new Commission Members and guests.

- REACHING OUT TO THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY:

Ms. Kuramoto facilitated a discussion of past experiences and current challenges facing outreach to the Lakewood immigrant community. One of the emerging immigrant groups in Lakewood is the burmese community. Ms. Kuramoto further pointed out that some of these immigrants from the asian community were previously housed in refugee camps. Language and communication are the most common barriers in terms of immigration outreach. Domestic violence and alcoholism are common issues as well. Racial tensions between the various cultures are a common problem in the educational program community.

Ms. Kuramoto's affiliation Asian Services in Action Inc is a social services agency that provides outreach and counseling services to facilitate elimination of barriers toward cultural growth and prosperity.

-KASEY GREER FOLLOW UP:

Ms. Garrett provided Heights Community Congress' block grant proposal for their diversity and fair housing programming to the city. It is recommended that the commission look through the funding proposal to submit ideas and adjustments in terms of how the commission can facilitate the partnership with HCC. Ms. Garrett pointed out that fair housing programs under the federal fair housing act does not

need Citizens Advisory Commission approval because of federal government mandates in accordance to the law. Ms. Garrett cautioned the group that the city may be at risk of cuts and delays in federal monies. Ms. Smith recommended that that the Commission presents a successful track record of its work portfolio to the CAC for possible appeal to obtain funds.

- YOUTH CONVERSATION FOLLOW UP:

A few things that were recommended from short-term solutions from the youth forum were the student panelists writing a column for the Lakewood Observer, adding a youth member to a commission post. A youth calendar connecting the students to the various civic organizations was also thought of. In terms of adding a youth member to a commission post needs research and any legislation introduced to City Council. Ms. Smith will research this through follow up with Law Director Kevin Butler and introduce any necessary legislation to City Council.

- YOUTH RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE:

The sub-committee met in March to develop a “One-Lakewood Pass” program to connect organizations and businesses to develop a youth activities night. Greater Cleveland YMCA Chief Operating Officer Maurice Horsey and Lakewood City School Board Member Matt Markling also met to discuss the elimination of barriers for those two entities to develop a working relationship.

- LOBC

Mr. Eadah reported that the LOBC fundraiser at Around the Corner was successful. The usage of the courts is growing. 12 is the average age for court usage. LOBC is working with Public Works Director Joe Beno and Planning Director Dru Siley to look at other potential future outdoor basketball locations, and those that have great visibility. Mr. Eadah made a recommendation that the commission endorse other locations to City Council. Ms. Smith recommended that the commission shall broaden the scope of the endorsement to other added athletics and activities. Ms. Smith also suggested that a greeter service shall be sought for the courts as well.

- RAD

Mr. Lobo and Ms. Smith brainstormed an idea to spearhead an ethnic potluck showcasing Lakewood’s various ethnic restaurants that the commission and RAD would coordinate in sponsoring at Madison Park. A motion was made to put together a sub-committee consisting of Ms. Kuramoto, Rev. Mader-Connor, Ms. Stoltz and Mr. Eadah will join Mr. Lobo and Ms. Smith for recruiting restaurants to participate.

- CAIR AND TRAINING LAKEWOOD POLICE OFFICERS:

CAIR, which is the Council on American Islamic Relations, is interested in training Lakewood Police Officers on handling domestic violence issues.

- MOVIE NIGHT

On Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the commission will show Metropolis at Trinity Lutheran Church. Mayor Summers, City Council, State Rep Antonio and Planning Director Siley are invitees to the film.

- NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

- Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 8:08 p.m. the meeting was motioned adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Gregory D. Mahoney, Secretary  
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission