

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio
March 8, 2011

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on March 8, 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, Karen Kuramoto and Dan Saracina. Councilwomen Monique Smith, Mary Louise Madigan and Melissa Garrett from the Office of Community Relations for the City of Lakewood were also in attendance. Kasey Greer from Heights Community Congress and Resident Maya Davis were also present. Notice having been duly given and a quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. local time.

A reading and disposal of the February minutes was conducted.

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

- KASEY GREER AND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS
INTRODUCTION:

Kasey Greer is the Executive Director of the Heights Community Congress. Ms. Greer attended this meeting of the Commission to introduce herself to provide an insight to the mission of the Heights Community Congress organization and how the Commission can collaborate with Ms. Greer and the Heights Community Congress on future activities and/ or agenda items.

Ms. Greer pointed out that Heights Community Congress was instituted in 1972 to better facilitate fair housing laws. Ms. Greer graciously shared her experiences and various engagements in fair housing law issues as well as the activities and services Heights Community Congress participates in. Fair housing rights can be a potential future pilot project and agenda item collaborated with the Heights Community Congress. A question and answer session was conducted with Ms. Greer and members of the Commission.

Ms. Greer made two suggestions to the commission as advice to expedite a strong working relationship; 1) Retrieve a copy of the block grant proposal from

2009 for funding purposes, 2) The Commission shall contentiously brainstorm to find out what the priorities of our mission statement would be.

- YOUTH CONVERSATION REFLECTION

The commission sponsored a conversation on youth last month. Ms. Farunia believed that the students were in a homestead environment and the commission shall find a way to thank them for their contribution to the evening's success. Rev. Maeder Connor suggested that she would like to retrieve the Youth Planning Document and see what members of the Commission can resurrect. One suggestion that Rev. Maeder Connor pointed out was the need for a youth community center. Mr. Eadah pointed out that recreation was a priority need from the student panelists and that he and Mr. Moore have put their heads together to work on some short-term solutions such as expanded YMCA access. Councilwoman Smith suggested that the Commission should submit a grant application to the CAC (Citizens Advisory Commission) for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) dollars. Emma Barcelona is the city's chief mediator of the CDBG dollars that the city allocates to CDBG beneficiaries.

Ms. Stoltz made the motion that a youth activities planning sub-committee shall be formed. The motion was voted in the affirmative. Ms. Williams, Mr. Eadah, Mr. Moore, Mr. Saracina, Ms. Wellman, Mr. Loboza and Mr. Mahoney will serve on the newly formed sub-committee. Resident attendee, Ms. Davis will also contribute her efforts as well.

A motion to spearhead friendly collaboration with the Community Planning and Development department and learning the federal grant dollars was voted in the affirmative. Ms. Garrett will conduct the spearheading process.

- IDLING

Councilwoman Smith will consult Councilman Ryan Nowlin, City Council's Rules and Ordinances committee chairperson to push for a hearing on the idling shared responsibility plan that the Commission created and drafted.

- RAD TRIP TO DC

Mr. Loboza indicated that the RAD trip to Washington on February 23 and 24 was successful.

- APPOINTMENTS

The Commission is now 100% occupied. Ms. Kuramoto and Ms. Farunia were appointed by Mayor Summers. Councilman Ryan Nowlin appointed Ms. Youngblood.

- LOBC

LOBC will host a fundraiser on April 2nd from 6-8 p.m. at Around the Corner.

- BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEET AND GREET

Ms. Garrett distributed flyers for the Boards and Commissions meet and greet event on March 29th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Deagans.

- NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

- Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 8:37 p.m. the meeting was motioned adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory D. Mahoney, Secretary
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission