

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio
May 10, 2011

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on May 10, 2011.

Attending the meeting were the following members of the Commission: Greg Mahoney, April Stoltz, Nadhal Eadah, Joe LoboZZo, Gayle Wellman, Malik Moore, Nahida Farunia, Dan Saracina and Karen Kuramoto. Councilwoman Monique Smith and Melissa Garrett from the Office of Community Relations for the City of Lakewood were also in attendance. Cynthia Sebertoli was also a guest 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.

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

- REACHING OUT TO THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY:

As a brief follow up from Ms. Kuramoto's presentation at last months meeting, Members of the Commission presented some ideas to reach out to the immigrant community. The first idea from Ms. Kuramoto is to include a welcoming party for the immigrant community. Mr. Eadah had suggested a designation in the center of the city ie: Wagar Park, be converted into a cultural grounds representing all of the faiths in Lakewood and converting the tennis courts at Wagar Park into a soccer facility which is designated to be a popular international sport.

As an additional talking point, Ms. Kuramoto also reported that the Burmese, Bhutanese, Albanians, Kerens and Bantus are amongst some of the heaviest growing immigrant population in Lakewood.

- FOLLOW UP FROM METROPOLIS SHOWING:

Last month, Members of the Commission hosted a showing of Metropolis, a film designated to illustrate strengths and weaknesses involving inner ring sububs like Lakewood. Ms. Garrett mentioned if the Commission or the City were to show the film in a general public setting, the film producers require a one-time copyright showing fee of \$300.00.

The second film in the series was focused on establishing community partnership and empowerment with new residents, the Members of the Commission brainstormed ideas on how we as Lakewoodites can better utilize our strengths to create community conversation and partnership connection with new residents:

Ms. Stoltz suggested working with Heights Community Congress for community conversation training in conjunction with the film. Mr. Moore suggested to find and determine ways and means to connect new residents to city and elected officials. Mr. Eadah inquired to Ms. Garrett about advertising the Lakewood product in publications such as the Scene or Cleveland Magazines. Ms. Garrett replied that the City once assumed a task such as this, but does not do that in modern day due to the cost restraints associated with that. The city does compete with other communities to get best suburb designation with local publications. Mr. Eadah also suggested an event like a home show showcasing our civic organizations could lead to more enhanced community involvement. At the film showing, Mayor Summers suggested the possibility of leadership training with new residents.

- YOUTH RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE:

A meeting will be set up between Lakewood City School Superintendent Dr. Madak, Lakewood City School Board Member Matt Markling and Greater Cleveland YMCA Chief Operating Officer Maurice Horsey to agree on a memorandum of understanding and a non-compete agreement between the two recreational entities.

- ANTI- IDLING

Work is ongoing with At- Large City Councilman Ryan Nowlin who serves as Council's Rules and Ordinances committee Chairperson to have a hearing on the Idling Shared Responsibility Plan the Members of the Commission created.

- PROPOSED ETHNIC TASTE OF LAKEWOOD:

Members of the Commission agreed to do this in the fall and not the summer months as originally proposed in order to avoid competition with the Madison Park Community Festival.

- NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011.

- CYNTHIA SEBERTOLI:

Cynthia Sebertoli is the Housing Resource Coordinator for Eden stopped by to introduce herself and to give a background to what Eden does. Eden, also known as the Emerald Development and Economic Network, INC., provides fair housing services for individuals that have mental illnesses and disabilities.

- 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