

City of Lakewood, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Held: City Hall, Lakewood, Ohio  
September 11, 2012

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Community Relations Advisory Commission (the "Commission") was held on September 11, 2012.

Attending the meeting were the following Members of the Commission: Greg Mahoney, April Stoltz, Barbara Schwartz, Nahida Farunia, J.T. Neuffer, Karen Kuramoto, Paula Maeder Connor and Joe Lobo. City of Lakewood Community Relations Specialist Melissa Garrett, Lakewood City Councilpersons Mary Louise Madigan and Monique Smith and Resident Carol DeLatt were 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.

Reading and disposal of the minutes from the July 2012 meeting were conducted.

- ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL:

The Commissions' annual report is going to be presented at the Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Lakewood City Council. Members of the Commission discussed advising Council to provide better recognition of the achievements in Lakewood's youth community and exploring the potential to have somebody from the youth community serve as a Commission Member. The Commission also would like to advise Council to work more strategically to better educate real estate agents about selling the quality of Lakewood's physical assets to potential homebuyers. The Commission would also like to explore how it can play a role in the many block clubs throughout the city.

Councilperson Madigan reminded the Commission that Council is reviewing all of the various boards and commissions that currently sit on the books and how they can be better aligned and consolidated to deliver a more enhanced service product to the city. Ms. Madigan also suggested that the Commission shall emphasize collaboration from other organizations. Mr. Neuffer recommended that the report shall undertake a numbers approach, for example; discuss the attendance numbers at events such as the diversity potluck and the Welcome to Lakewood event.

- THE OTHER WES MOORE:

Mr. Loboizzo reported that if the Commission wants to do a community conversation on the "The Other Wes Moore" to go talk to Suzanne Metelko from the University of Akron Lakewood satellite campus. University of Akron Lakewood could be a possible venue to host this event. The Other Wes Moore is a book that was assigned summer reading for students of the Lakewood City School District. A sub-committee of Rev. Maeder Connor, Mr. Neuffer, Mr. Loboizzo and Ms. Farunia will convene to better explore this opportunity.

- DATES FOR COMMISSION SPONSORED EVENTS IN 2012-2013:

It was determined that the diversity potluck is proposed to be held on January 24, 2013. The Welcome to Lakewood event is proposed to be held sometime in April 2013.

- SUSPECTED COMMISSION MEMBER RESIGNATIONS:

Ms. Garrett reported that Mayor Summers has not received resignation letters from commission members Malik Moore and Carla Williams. Ms. Stoltz will further investigate into this.

- DOING BUSINESS WITHOUT QUORUMS:

Councilperson Smith stated that the sub-committees of the Commission could informally meet without quorums by submitting a written report of proceedings to the Secretary. This will apply only to working sub-committees, not official Commission meetings.

- NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting for the Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

- Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at approximately 8:10 p.m. the meeting was motioned adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gregory D. Mahoney, Secretary  
Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission

