

## Lakewood Community Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2013 - *final*

**Attending:** JT Neuffer, Chair; Bernadette Elston; Ayman Alkayali; Chris Varano; Nahida Farunia; Joe Lobo; Barbara Schwartz, Secretary

**Absent:** April Stoltz, Karen Kuramoto; Paula Maeder Conner; Veronica Youngblood; Dan Saracina; Monique Smith, City Council Liaison; Melissa Garrett, Community Relations Specialist

**Guests:** Abby McGinty and Katie Kurtz of the Ranger 360 program

Introductions of all members present were made for the benefit of our two newest members, Bernadette Elston, and Ayman Alkayali, both appointed by Mayor Summers. Bernadette worked for Progressive Insurance as a diversity rep, has a daughter who graduated from LHS and is a freshman at Bowling Green, and Bernadette also has a son who is a freshman at LHS. She has a master's in psychology and has been active with NAMI. Ayman is a long time resident of Lakewood, is an artist working in ceramics and making furniture and owns the Algebra Tea House on Murray Hill. The members all expressed how pleased they are to have both join the Commission. Seven will be the number needed for a quorum. JT will ask Melissa to update and send out a revised list of members.

### **Community Conversation – Upstanders: The Power of One**

Because the annual Community Conversation is scheduled for the coming Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Lakewood Public Library's Main Auditorium, much of the meeting was devoted to a review of the work group's preparations and discussion of any remaining details needing attention. The format for the evening is to be a panel of Lakewood individuals who exemplify what it means to be an Upstander as opposed to being a bystander. How their experiences can help us as individuals and as a community, prevent victimization and make Lakewood a safer and more caring community. Abby McGinty and Katie Kurtz representing the Ranger 360 program presented the outline and format for the evening. They also provided copies of "Meet the Upstanders" – brief biographies of the panelists, proposed questions for the Upstander Panel and audience questions (to stimulate discussion, if needed.) The panelists will be: Ron Lewis, coach at LHS; Emmie Hutchinson, Coordinator of H2O; Lyndie Schuckert, Guidance Department Facilitator, Lakewood schools; Devon Chodzin, a junior at LHS. (See Attachments)

The format for the evening would be a brief summary of the Ranger 360 program by Katie and Abby, and then an introduction of the panelists. The panelists will have received the questions ahead of time and asked to respond to several of the questions. The program should begin no later than 7:10, allowing approximately 5-10 minutes for each panelist to speak, and then 45 minutes for questions from the audience and to thank the panelists and library for providing the venue. JT will be the moderator and Chris will be the timekeeper. Ayman very generously said he would donate \$10 gift certificates to each of the panelists to his Algebra Tea House as thank

you's. Joe and Bernadette will be greeters and direct people downstairs. Barbara and Karen will have sign-in sheets to get names and email addresses of those attending. Joe will ask Melissa for index cards, pens, sign-in sheets and pins. Publicity was handled by Melissa Garrett through her list of email notifications, articles in the Observer, and flyers posted in the community, as well as word-of-mouth. Abby and Katie left at 7:45 PM.

### **Vice-Chair**

We had a discussion regarding the appointment of a vice-chairperson, with JT suggesting that the responsibilities could include filling-in in the Chair's absence, assisting in establishing the agenda, and helping to recruit new members to the Commission.

### **Diversity Potluck – January 23rd**

The Diversity Potluck is our next major event of the year and has been scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2014. Joe said he would check with Melissa to see if she had reserved the Lakewood Women's Pavilion. LCRAC members volunteering to be the planning work group are: Bernadette, Karen, Joe, Ayman, Nahida, and April. It is hoped that the group will meet and begin planning prior to our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

JT asked that whenever we plan an event that we check what other activities may conflict with our proposed date and time. We should check with the LHS and middle schools' schedules, and the city schedule. Also, Nicki Antonio, State Representative, and former Lakewood City Councilperson and a founder of LCRAC, has said that she would like to attend our events when possible. As she must be in Columbus on Tuesdays, that would always be a conflict. JT also said that he would be willing to send City Council members specific emails about events.

### **Welcome to Lakewood**

This will be our third event of the year to be scheduled for the spring. JT, Ayman, Joe, Chris and April will begin working on this and will contact the Lakewood Family Collaborative to see if they are interested in co-sponsoring and working with us again. One area to address is how to attract more people. Perhaps having some additional attraction as an incentive, such as asking Brian Hoyer, Cleveland Brown's player who grew up in Lakewood, or a mini-job fair, perhaps focusing on summer youth employment opportunities, would be examples of additional attractions.

### **Old Business**

JT will ask April to pursue having a high school student member of LCRAC.

The City Council Task Force on Boards and Commissions has said that we only need to submit a report to Council once a year. They also asked that we seek their approval if we plan a major event beyond the three that we currently sponsor.

The Commission would also like to know if there will be a new Council liaison to LCRAC appointed in the new year, as Monique Smith who has been our liaison, will have ended her term.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

Ayman motioned that we adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chris, and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Minutes submitted by Barbara A. Schwartz, Secretary