

## Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission

### Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2014 – *final*

**Attending:** April Stoltz, Vice-Chair; Chris Varano; Ayman Alkayali; Paula Maeder Conner; Bernadette Elston; Nahida Farunia; Barbara Schwartz, Secretary; Melissa Garrett, Community Relations Specialist

**Absent:** JT Neuffer; Joe Lobo; Karen Kuramoto; Dan Saracina

**The meeting began at 5:45 PM, and was devoted to final review of the preparations for the upcoming annual Diversity Potluck** – The World Lives in Lakewood, scheduled for Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Lakewood Women’s Pavilion.

**Food** – April said Deegan’s has agreed to send their mac & cheese; Barbara said El Carnicero is sending their goat cheese quacamole and tortilla chips; Paula said John Henry Salters is making Senegal chicken; Ayman will bring Libyan couscous and Fatoosh; Chris will bring wings from Around the Corner; Bernadette will make collard greens and will ask Jibaro Pit Stop, Greek Village and Gepetto’s; April will also ask Italian Creations for pasta, Paula will provide her large container for water; everyone will bring a 2 liter bottle of pop. Everyone should also bring containers to pack up leftovers. Melissa will provide plates, napkins, cups, and utensils. April said she still has round plastic tablecloths. April will contact Greg Mahoney to see if he can contribute fire logs.

**Assignments** - All should arrive by 5:15 PM to help set-up. We will have a sign-in table, with a sign-in sheet and name tags (Melissa will bring pens, paper and name tags). People will be directed to place a sticker on the world map, and to sign the thank you posters for the food businesses who have donated to the potluck. (Barbara will get the posters to Nahida to stencil with “thank you”, and will bring the map and tape. Nahida will bring stickers, pens, and activities for the kids table.) April will call Joe to ask if RAD will help out with music again this year.

**Publicity** – Everyone will help to post flyers, by emailing and calling people in Lakewood they know, April attended the all-city PTA meeting, she will call Dan Saracina to see if he can post the event on our Facebook page, and Melissa will handle the press releases and city notifications.

Bernadette volunteered to take pictures and will write the article for the Lakewood Observer after the event.

**Schedule** – Nickie Antonio, State Representative, and former Lakewood City Council member who introduced the legislation to create the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC), has been asked to speak about the reasons that brought the LCRAC into being. As she has another commitment, we will schedule her to speak at 6:15; then proceed with dinner. There should be a commission member at each table. Bernadette has prepared three

questions (Melissa will have a copy for each table) which the commission members will use to gather input from the participants during dinner. The questions are:

- 1) How do you envision the role of LCRAC?
- 2) If LCRAC were to address one community issue, which one would it be?
- 3) What sorts of events would you like to see LCRAC sponsor?

**Minutes of 12/12/13** – Chris made a motion to attach to the December minutes a Letter to the Editor from the Lakewood Observer of January 8, 2013, which contained very positive comments about the Community Conversation. Paula seconded the motion, and all agreed. April made a motion to accept the minutes, which Nahida seconded and all approved.

Paula moved that the meeting be adjourned, Chris seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 6:30 PM.**

Minutes submitted by Barbara Schwartz, Secretary