

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes
January 10, 2019; 6:30 p.m., Lakewood City Hall, 12600 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH

In attendance were: Rachel Donaldson (Co-Chair), Jessica Sloan (Co-Chair) Chitra Walker (Secretary), Andrew Morris, Gabrielle Jackson, Barbara Howell, Tariq Ata, Gary Rick, and Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist)

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously with a correction.

LakewoodAlive Community Forum recap: Chitra gave a recap of the Forum – *Anxiety and Depression in Teens – Who Cares?*, which took place on Tuesday, November 13 in the Lakewood High School Cafeteria. 75 people attended, and the forum (with four panelists) was very well received. LCRAC members helped as volunteers. LakewoodAlive conducted a recap after the Forum where it was suggested that surveys about the forum to get input from attendees be provided right at the event, so that they can be gathered right away. LakewoodAlive is preparing for its next forum which will probably be in Spring of 2019. Jessica encouraged Commission members to actively participate in suggesting topics for the next forum. Any suggestions should be sent to Chitra to pass on to LakewoodAlive at their next Forum Committee meeting (which is being decided by Cindy Einhouse, Chair of the Committee). Jessica also made sure that LCRAC continued to be represented on the Forum Committee. Chitra and Andy will continue to attend Forum Committee meetings.

LCRAC 1st quarter Mixer: LCRAC's first quarter Mixer was held on Tuesday, November 27 at The Distill Table on Madison Avenue and was a success. 6-10 people were in attendance, including Councilman Litton (Ward 3). Jessica noted that the next one will likely be in March, and we should make certain the Councilperson will attend. It was agreed that this was a good way to give visibility to the Commission and encourage community participation.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Advisory Council: Jessica and Gary gave an update on the Youth Advisory Council. The Mayor has spoken to people at the High School, including Joe Labasio and Ron Lewis (both teachers at the High School) regarding the establishment of such a Council. The High School is very enthused, and the Mayor has already spoken to a group of students who he invited to attend City Council's next Committee of the Whole Meeting of City Council on Monday, January 14. Melissa noted that an ordinance to establish the Council had already been introduced to City Council in November. For the ordinance to be passed it requires 3 readings in Committee and a Hearing. The meeting on the 14th would constitute the Hearing. Three students will be attending the Committee meeting on the 14th as well as Ron Lewis. They could pass the ordinance at this meeting or defer it to the next meeting of Council. Jessica suggested Gary as a member of the Commission's subcommittee working on the Youth Advisory Council attend the City Council meeting on the 14th where, if called upon, he could speak to what LCRAC has done to date. Tariq said he could attend as well, and noted that he also had been in communication with Joe Labasio

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at the High School. Chitra will also attend the City Council meeting on Monday. Jessica suggested that LCRAC's next meeting in February be dedicated to discussing the Youth Advisory Council, where we could redefine, modify and fine tune what has already been accomplished by the subcommittee.

Diversity Potluck: Chitra and Barbara gave an update on food contributions for the event. Angelo's, India Garden, Namasthe India Garden, Breadsmith, Alladin's, Forage, Sweet Designs and Barocco have committed to providing donations of food. El Carnicero has been contacted, but have not been heard from for a donation of guacamole dip and chips. Gary will try to reach Eric the manager to see if that donation can be confirmed. Jessica suggested who/when to pick up items on the day of the event be determined. Chitra will send out an email week of the event to confirm all pick-ups and times. Melissa said she would be at the Woman's Pavilion at 5:00 to start set up. The Root Café will also be contacted (Jessica?) for a donation of coffee. There was a discussion on an activity/speaker for the event. April Stoltz was suggested as a speaker and/or to do a "Teatime for Peace" type event. Chitra will contact April. Melissa also suggested that we should involve the RAD group at the High School. It might be too late for this time, but the Commission must involve them next year.

There was a brief discussion on current vacancies on the Commission. There are 4/possibly 5 vacancies. Considering the Youth Advisory Council, Gary suggested having a teacher join the Commission.

Jessica recapped the "to do's" from the meeting, and Chitra reminded people to send suggestions for the LakewoodAlive Community Forum. Jessica suggested that we have a conversation around the race related incident at Spooky Pooch – possibly around civil/civic discourse in the Lakewood Community.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission is on Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Conference Room (enter from the back parking lot), which will henceforth be the designated meeting place. The March meeting will be on Thursday, March 14.

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.