

## Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes

May 16, 2018; 6:30 PM; Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave.

**In attendance were:** Gary Rick, Rachel Donaldson (Co-Chair), Jessica Sloan (Co-Chair), Tariq Ata, Andrew Morris, Chitra Walker, Gabrielle Jackson, and Harry Lader (Secretary). **Not present were:** Barbara Howell, Sam Gantous, Erik Meinhardt, Bernadette Elston, and Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist). We have a quorum (minimum of seven members).

**Old business:** The minutes from our last meeting on April 5, 2018 were approved unanimously.

**Appointees:** Andrew Morris was introduced and spoke about his background.

**Events:** We are cosponsoring Community Conversations with LakewoodAlive and is scheduled for May 23, from 7 to 8:30 PM at Lakewood Public Library (Main). We are well staffed with at least four volunteers from our commission to help with signing in, passing out index cards, and staffing a table for our commission with a poster that Chitra Walker and Harry Lader put together. Volunteers: Tariq, Andrew, Gary, Rachel, Chitra, and Harry; Gabrielle will be on the panel. There will be a pre-event meeting at 6:00 PM at Nature's Oasis and a post event debriefing after the event with LakewoodAlive.

**Survey monkey results:** Jessica briefly reviewed the results. Of the 10 people who responded, no one wants to be on the publicity committee, and no one wants to be the chair of a committee. Three people signed up for the event/logistics committee, and seven people signed up for the subcommittee on speakers/panelists/entertainment. We need to decide if we will do our own meetings or if we will continue to cosponsor with LakewoodAlive or other organizations.

**Citizens Police Academy:** Harry spoke about the positive experiences of taking this 12 week class.

**Summer LCRAC Meetings:** Due to summer vacations, we will have a modified schedule during the summer. We will try for: Tuesday June 12, Thursday July 12, and Thursday August 9. We are looking for good participation of volunteers for future Lakewood events in order to promote our commission.

We discussed possibly moving the Diversity Potluck dinner to the YMCA in order to get more attendance. Also, possibly move the Welcome to Lakewood event to Lakewood Park in late summer or piggyback with another event, and use the Pavilion as a backup plan in case of bad weather. We will need to plan this event by July if we are to have this event in August.

We talked about having a weatherproof banner to promote our commission; "Unity Through Diversity" as a message.

Now that we have a full commission, we also discussed having happy hour in different wards and include council people and the mayor to get to know each other. We also discussed having a retreat to determine what we want our commission to be, moving forward, and plan the calendar year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Submitted by:** Harry Lader, Secretary, June 11, 2018