

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes

June 12, 2018; 6:30 PM; Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes from our last meeting on May 16, 2018 were approved unanimously.

LakewoodAlive: Recap of the May 23 Community Conversation cosponsored with LakewoodAlive (Embracing Diversity: Fostering Equity and Inclusion in Lakewood).

- A survey is being sent out by LakewoodAlive to get feedback

-Everyone was pleased with the collaboration between LakewoodAlive and LCRAC; it fits in with our mission and they have a system in place. In November, LakewoodAlive will have a conversation about mental health. After a discussion and reading our mission statement, we voted that it falls within the scope of our mission to continue our collaboration with LakewoodAlive.

-They usually have 2 conversations per year; we should consider proposing ideas for the spring of 2019.

-Gabrielle and Andrew will try to attend the next LakewoodAlive meeting. Chitra and Jessica will try to attend their regularly scheduled meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome to Lakewood: Because in the past we have had poor attendance, we talked about possible other venues such as Lakewood Park, the outdoor Kiwanis pavilion, or Woman's Pavilion.

Due to a lack of sufficient lead time, we decided to keep the venue the same, at Garfield school, for our next Welcome to Lakewood event, which will probably be held (not yet confirmed) on Oct. 17 about 6-8 PM. We also discussed having more targeted marketing order to draw the people who need to know about services provided in Lakewood.

For our next Welcome to Lakewood event, we all need to pick our committee: at

-publicity/marketing

-events/logistics

We will reach out to the mayor and council people to get ideas about how to reach those people: Gary will reach out to Mayor Summers; Rachel will reach out to John Litton; Gabriel will reach out to Dan O'Malley, Sam O'Leary, Tom Bullock, Tristan Rader, and Meghan George.

Prepare questions to target renters or new residents and try to reach them with landlord newsletters, mail, block captains, Lakewood ministerial association, and try to find new organizations in Lakewood.

Volunteer signups:

Gabriel: marketing, social media administration; Gary: marketing, organization out reach

Chitra and Harry: events and logistics, food donations

Barbara: Lakewood Observer and Patch online, liaison, coordinate articles

Andrew: speakers and panelists

Rachel and Jessica will float among the different groups.

Diversity Potluck: We discussed that that people, especially immigrants, are afraid in this current climate and that we should try to reach out to immigrants. We discussed partnering with the high school in order to reach out to more immigrants; having the Diversity Potluck at the YMCA to increase attendance; work together on a project to bring various cultures together, for example cooking a dish together, partnering with Ranger Café.

LCRAC retreat: Chitra talked about the last retreat which was over 3 years ago at Trinity Lutheran Church with Nickie Antonio. It helped us understand our purpose and get to know one another.

LCRAC Happy Hour: We can discuss the retreat during Happy Hour during July or Aug. The Mayor has his Listening to Lakewood event the 2nd Tues. of each month where we can meet. Next two events are on Tues., July 10, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at Deagan's Kitchen; and Tues., Aug. 14, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at Virginia Marti College of Art and Design.

New News: There have been Alt-Right posters popping up at RTA stations including Lakewood. Calling themselves Evropa, they are a new white nationalist movement who are against immigration and globalization. Although Tristan Rader has responded on social media, we discussed advising City Council and the Mayor to make a more public response against this.

Announcements: Common Ground and the Cleveland Foundation will host conversations around the region about living in that region and how to improve it on June 24, 4-6 PM at the Kiwanis Pavilion.

Chitra Walker has been appointed as a member of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation out of a field of 81 applicants. Their mission is to promote innovative and evidence-based health and wellness opportunities that will result in a positive long-term impact to our community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Submitted by: Harry Lader, Secretary, July 10, 2018