

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes
June 17, 2019; 6:30 p.m., Lakewood City Hall, 12600 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH

In attendance: Rachel Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Chitra Walker (Secretary), Tariq Atta, Andrew Morris, Stacey Loejos (new member), Gary Rick, and Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist)

Not present: Jessica Sloan, Barbara Howell, Robin Beavers, Walter Wright

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 11, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

LakewoodAlive Community Forum Report: Chitra Walker reported on the discussion at the last meeting of the Forum Committee. The Committee debriefed on the “Civil Discourse and Mutual Respect” forum which took place on May 14. There were several takeaways and observations which were discussed. Also discussed were attendance at the Forum, engagement level of the audience and what could be improved or done differently. Suggestions for improvement included: giving out written bios as handouts rather than waste time speaking about them in introductions; consider what is really possible in a one-hour time frame; make the conversation more relevant to the Lakewood community; and consider writing a follow-up article for Observer and Patch with summary, links to resources and takeaways. Next steps included possibly having LCRAC do a follow-up round table discussion to delve deeper into the topic of civil discourse or other topics which are controversial or difficult in Lakewood. LakewoodAlive will provide the survey data summary at the next meeting.

Discussion on Racial Equity with special guest Erica Merritt and any follow up from meeting: This discussion was tabled to the next meeting when Walter Wright will address it.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Advisory Council: Gary Rick gave a brief account of activity with the development of the Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Task Force has met several times. There has been vigorous discussion and debate at the Task Force meetings, without the necessity of a lot of guidance from Gary and Tariq. They have worked diligently and have already created the Mission & Vision, By Laws and Draft Application to participate on the Youth Advisory Council, including suggestions for improvement to the City of Lakewood. These documents have been reviewed by City Council. The Task Force has determined that the Youth Advisory Council will consist of 15 members who will be appointed by the Task Force. Election of these members will take place in September/October after school begins. Melissa added that the Ordinance to establish the new Youth Advisory Council has had its first reading at City Council. There will be three readings.

New LakewoodAlive Community Forum: Chitra noted that the next meeting of the Forum Committee was June 18, when the topic and date of the next Forum would be finalized.

New Chair Position: Rachel announced that Jessica Sloan will be resigning from her position as Chair of LCRAC as she has decided to move out of the City of Lakewood. Rachel said that members should consider who could be the new Chair. Gary R. suggested Walter Wright (not present). Rachel

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encouraged members to think about this further, and that she would send out a position description for members' further review and consideration. She hoped that we would be able to elect the new Chair at the next meeting.

Upcoming LCRAC Meetings: July 11 was not a good date for most in the group, so Melissa will send out a Doodle poll to determine the date of the next meeting.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.