

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes

September 17, 2018; 6:30 PM; Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave.

In attendance were: Rachel Donaldson (Co-Chair), Jessica Sloan (Co-Chair), Gary Rick, Tariq Ata, Chitra Walker, Bernadette Elston, Harry Lader (Secretary), and Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist), and guest Mayor Summers.

Not present were: Andrew Morris, Gabrielle Jackson, Barbara Howell, Erik Meinhardt, and Sam Gantous. We have a quorum (minimum of seven members).

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Advisory Council: Mayor Summers discussed our potential role in the creation of a Youth Advisory Council, whose main goal is to provide meaningful input into the decision-making process to ensure that services and support networks meet the needs of young people. He is asking that our committee consider the establishment and supervision of this council.

Mayor Summers recently attended a Mayors Meeting in Boston where there was a discussion about the impact of young people on the political process which sparked his interest in pursuing a Youth Council for Lakewood. He provided copies of “Youth Power! –Starting a Youth Advisory Council” which explains the steps needed to create this council. This advisory council would create learning opportunities, inspire young people to become more involved in the community and become the voice of emerging issues that the city would address. Mayor Summers had a large volume of background material to help with the creation of this council. Melissa will scan this information and send out to the people who are present at this meeting.

Mayor Summers suggested that this council be limited to Lakewood residents and have approximately 15 to 20 people. Our role would be to:

- Write a proposal for City Council on the creation of a Youth Advisory Council
- Submit ideas for the criteria to recruit, secure applicants, get input from students
- City Council would formalize it
- Commit LCRAC to create the Youth Advisory Council in about six months
- Continue with the supervision and mentorship of this council

Our discussion centered on creating a small sub-group to steer the process to create the proposal. This group would do the background work to fully understand the implications, determine what needs to be done, how to involve Student Council from Lakewood High School and possibly other sources in the early stages to help us develop this council.

Before we commit, we would need the approval of the entire commission; the concern was that it would dilute our ability to pursue our objectives and we would need to adjust priorities.

There was a motion to create a subcommittee to look at the viability of writing a proposal to create a Youth Advisory Council. This motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Gary, Tariq, and Bernadette agreed to be on this subcommittee.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes from our last meeting on July 10, 2018 were approved unanimously.

LCRAC Committees

- Tariq will be involved with Events/Logistics and Publicity
- Bernadette will be involved with Publicity/Marketing
- Sam needs to be assigned a role

Upcoming LCRAC events

-Welcome to Lakewood: Wed. Oct. 17 at 6 - 8 PM at Garfield. Rachel has secured the event location.

Bernadette will promote this event on social media; Melissa will contact the organizations that need to be involved; Chitra and Harry will be responsible for the food; Gabrielle will be involved in government outreach to attend the event and draft an article for the Patch, Observer, and E-newsletter; Melissa will make sure the flyers are finished and will distribute to churches to post.

-Collaboration with LakewoodAlive: Next event is about teens and mental health to be held November 13 at Lakewood High School at 7:00 PM. LCRAC volunteers are needed to help during the event. Chitra and Andrew are our representatives to LakewoodAlive.

-LCRAC Happy Hour: Jessica will set up this event once per quarter at each of the four wards to begin in November. The Mayor and Council Member for that ward will be notified about this event, if they want to attend. There will be no agenda; just an informal gathering.

-LCRAC Leadership Elections: Chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary positions are open for election at our next meeting. Jessica and Rachel would be willing to continue, but are open to having other people step up, if interested. Chitra is interested in assuming the role of secretary. Any new appointments to replace outgoing members need to be committed to attending meetings.

Upcoming LCRAC meetings

From now on LCRAC meetings are scheduled for the usual 2nd Thursday of each month (next meeting: October 11, 2018).

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by: Harry Lader, Secretary, October 9, 2018