

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

Members Present: Tariq Atta, Rachel Donaldson (Vice Chair), Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist), Tracey Greenberg, Stacey Loejos, Lise Stevens, Chitra Walker (Secretary), Walter Wright (Chair).

Guests: Mande Young, Lakewood resident

Members Absent: Robin Beavers, Barbara Howell, Gary Rick, Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers, Jon Gromek

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 2019 and September 2019 meetings were approved with one correction to September minutes. Chitra M. thanked Lise Stevens for taking minutes of September 2019 in her absence.

NEW BUSINESS

LCRAC Membership: Melissa reported that President of City Council, Sam O'Leary, and Ward 4 Councilman Dan O'Malley have not yet made their appointments. The Mayor also has to make one appointment.

Welcome to Lakewood Event: Walter W. noted that he had submitted an article about the event to the Lakewood Observer, and it would appear in the next edition, before the event. Stacey L. had not joined the meeting yet, so we did not get an update on publicity for the event on Social Media. Chitra W. updated the group on the food donors who would be contributing to the event: Aladdin's, Breadsmith, India Garden. Tariq A. very generously agreed to contribute a tray of baklava. Rachel D. noted that Gwendolyn S. had offered to pick up any food items that needed picking up. Chitra W. said she had not reached out to The Root Café yet, so Rachel offered to call and ask Gwendolyn if she would call The Root, and if they were willing to provide coffee, if she would be willing to pick it up and bring it to the event. Rachel D. also noted that the H2O campers were working with the posters for the event. Melissa G. said that we could still accept more vendors and asked the group to call any organizations they knew on the list (which she had already printed out for everyone) who had not yet responded. Tracy G. said she would reach out to the ADA to see if they would like to have a table at the event. Melissa had also made copies of the flyers for the group to distribute in the city. Group agreed that we were all pretty much set for the event.

Youth Advisory Council: In Gary's absence, Melissa G. reported that the Youth Advisory Council had met on Wednesday, October 9. They had received 41 applications for the first Advisory Council positions. They had already gone through the first round of reviews of the applications. They intend to meet the week of October 14 to come up with the top 15 candidates for the remaining positions on the Council. They will then set up interviews and make their selections. Students from 8th Grade through Freshman year of college are eligible to apply for the positions.

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LakewoodAlive Community Forum – November 14, 2019: The Forum will be on transportation solutions for a 21st Century city, and will be held at Harrison Elementary School on November 14, 2019, starting at 7:00pm. Mayor Summers has agreed to moderate; there will be panelists from the City (Toni Gelsomino), from NOACA , RTA, and a person who is an expert on future technology related to transportation (works at Progressive Insurance). Tracy G. offered to attend also. There will be a need for LCRAC members to help with set up and collection of question cards from the audience.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items: Walter W. spoke about having Erica Merritt form a group to begin the discussion of racial equity in the City in 2020. With regard to 2020, Melissa noted that the Commission had, in the past, reported to City Council on the past year’s activities and to make recommendations. Walter W. suggested we go through the past minutes of meetings and create a power point presentation. Chitra W. offered to look at old minutes and bring salient points to the group for review. The group hopes to make this presentation to City Council in February or March of 2020.

In reference to other programs that members could think of for Lakewood, Stacey L. mentioned an “downtown ambassadors” program in Phoenix, AZ she had seen where the City had people assisting people in need (homeless and others) find the help they needed; these ambassadors also helped tourists get to where they wanted to go, etc. Mandy Y., our guest, noted that she was involved with Keep Lakewood Beautiful, and was interested in the group considering trash/recycling bins to be in more places.

Upcoming Meetings: The next meetings are: November 14 and December 12.

Announcements: Tracy G. said there is a Breastfest (fundraiser for breast cancer survivors) at Brothers restaurant on October 20, 2019 from 3-9 pm.

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