

COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD MINUTES

June 13, 2012, 6 PM., MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Present: Chair Susanne Wagner, Vice chair Dianne Wainwright, Carl Templin, Nancy Carroll, and Susan Morgans, staff liaison.

Absent: Hilary Chiz, Karen Durham, Jennifer May

Call to order: Susanne Wagner called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes of May meeting: Minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments.

Chair's Report: There was no chair's report.

Staff Liaison Update: Susan Morgans reported a complaint from a neighbor of a Three Rivers Youth group home. The woman will talk with other neighbors who share her concerns and let Susan know if they want mediation.

Susan has had a number of complaints about people who are keeping chickens and/or bees. This legal in Mt. Lebanon, and "urban farming?" is a growing movement, but it could be the source of community relations problems in our built-out community.

Project for the Year: The board decided "Voluntarism" is not a good fit. They would prefer to identify a problem/ need and facilitate a solution. A roundtable discussion among community nonprofits would be a useful way for organizations to share the services they provide and the needs they perceive so partnerships could be formed. We might produce an on-line guide to services provided by community organizations. Carl Templin suggested inviting a representative of a community agency to speak at each meeting in the coming months. The speakers' focus could be "From the perspective of your agency/organization, tell us something we don't know about our community." Susan said she could turn that into a magazine series.

Susanne suggested that next month we come up with lists of community agencies that we would like to hear from. Susan will provide the list she has.

Continuing Business: Susan said that Steve Feller will continue to do Coffee with the Manager, if requested, but he would appreciate the board considering some alternative ways in which people can talk with him informally. Nancy Carroll suggested that because this is the year of updating the Home Rule Charter and the Comprehensive Plan we should put Coffee with the Manager on hiatus and perhaps resume based on what comes out of the planning process.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 11, at 6 p.m. in the municipal building.

