

Community Relations Board Minutes
January 8, 2014, 6 p.m. Municipal Building

Present: Chair Susanne Wagner, Dianne Wainwright, vice chair, Nancy Carroll, Bob Taylor, Carl Templin, Steve Silverman, commission liaison, Susan Morgans, staff liaison, **Absent:** Matt Forrest, Karen Durham

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:10.

Consideration of September Minutes: Minutes were unanimously approved

Citizen Comment: Harry Gearhart, Vanderbilt Drive, introduced himself as a member of the Traffic Board and said he was there to observe.

Introductions: Since this was Commissioner Silverman's first meeting, everyone introduced themselves.

Chair's Report: Susanne Wagner provided Commissioner Silverman with some background on previous board activities, including the Boards and Authorities Fair, the "How to Disagree without Being Disagreeable" forum, mediations, and the past year's vetting of nonprofit organizations that provide services at low or no cost to local families with challenges. Commissioner Silverman mentioned several possible community issues the board might mediate. The board noted that members are trained to do one-on-one mediations but have never done anything on a neighborhood or communitywide basis.

Topic of the Month: Plan for the year. Several ideas were discussed. One was resuming "Coffee with the Manager," perhaps having the manager lead tours of various public facilities. The favored idea was a forum, possibly an online forum of the sort that S.A.F.E. Lebo did using Granicus in the Commission Chamber. Susan will send people the link to the forum. The group discussed whether it would be better to do several shorter forums, grouping related nonprofits or one large one. No decision was reached. This discussion will continue in February

Other Business: The board discussed whether it would be preferable to televise meetings. Some members were OK with the idea, but the majority was concerned that television would create privacy issues. Commissioner Silverman will convey this to the other elected officials

Carl Templin commended Commissioner Silverman for running a "clean campaign" and asked why he ran. Mr. Silverman said his main issues were traffic safety, park improvements and economic development.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 12, at 6 p.m. in the municipal building.

