

Community Relations Board (CRB) Minutes
Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 6 p.m.
Municipal Building

Attendance: Susanne Wagner, chair, Lisa Borelli-Dorn, Dianne Wainwright, Robert Taylor, Dana Hackley, Steve Silverman, commission liaison, Susan Morgans, staff liaison. Absent: Annette Bassett

Call to order: Chair Susanne Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes: The September minutes were approved with one correction.

Citizen Comment: There was no citizen comment.

Chair's Report:

Susanne reported that Albert Snyder has had to resign and thanked him for his service. His was an at-large position, so it will be open to anyone in the community who is interested in community relations. It would be good to find some applicants with interest in mediation, as the board is increasing its focus in that area. Susanne wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day and thanked all for attending. Because it has been difficult getting a quorum lately, she asked if the day or the time of the meeting should be changed. The consensus was to leave the meeting the same but to provide a few minutes flexibility to take account for traffic or parking problems. Everyone should try to be there by 6:15 at the latest (unless previously noted). She suggested inviting the chief inspector, the police chief, the fire chief and the magistrate to speak at upcoming meetings regarding the issues they see that undermine the quality of life of our citizens. Perhaps if the board is better informed, it could promote some sort of outreach effort similar to Outreach Teen and Family Services.

Commission Liaison Report Commissioner Silverman reported that the Commission is preparing to approve the 2016 budget and asked if there was anything the Community Relations Board needed. Susanne Wagner expressed her support for continued funding for Outreach and Mt. Lebanon Village. Mr. Silverman said that there would be a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 16 at Mellon Middle School to discuss the future of the now-closed Teen Center. It is possible it could become a municipal recreation department program.

Staff Liaison Report: Susan Morgans provided an update on the deer management archery hunt, which currently is under way. Phase Two (sharpshooting) will begin February 1 pending a second vote from the Commission in. Susan said the Commission might be looking at boards to determine which are or are not viable, so it is important that the CRB make its current ambitious plans known. She also reported on the search for the municipal manager, which the Commission expects to conclude by the end of the year

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Strategic Plan: Bob Taylor led a discussion on ideas for moving forward, which the board had come prepared to discuss. Here are the ideas:

- A “Chat with the Manager and Staff Members that the CRB would sponsor and move around different parts of town where people could stop at a coffee house or restaurant to share their concerns.
- A magazine column every other month to be written by Bob and Annette (both journalists) that would focus on citizen engagement. Examples of columns were: governance, meetings, boards and authorities, volunteer opportunities and mediation. Column could be called “Get Engaged.”
- Lisa Borelli-Dorn moved, Dana Hackley seconded and the board voted unanimously that “The Community Relations Board choose a Citizen of the Year who will be part of a Hall of Fame, details to be worked out.” Dana and Lisa will devise an application that can go in the January magazine and online and Susan will help promote using various media. Award will be presented at boards and authorities dinner April 7.
- A revised mediation process that would be conducted in cooperation with Judge Blaise Larotonda’s magisterial court. Susanne Wagner moved, and Dana Hackley seconded a motion “to

adopt Lisa Borelli-Dorn and Dianne Wainwright's mediation method proposal, sanctioned by Judge Blaise Larotonda, subject to approval by the Commission and the solicitor on a six-month trial basis." The motion passes unanimously.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Susanne will survey the board to see if another time might work better for 2016 meetings, as the turnout has not been as good as we would like lately.

Next meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, December 9 at 6 p.m. in the municipal building.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.