

Community Relations Board (CRB) Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 6 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

Call to order: Chair Susanne Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Consideration of Minutes: The September minutes were unanimously approved with three corrections.

Citizen Comment: There was no citizen comment.

Chair's Report:

Susanne Wagner reported that Chief Inspector Joe Berkley will attend the February meeting to discuss the sorts of "quality of life" issues he comes across in his work that he a) is not permitted to handle or b) is not qualified to handle. This is part of the board's quest to assess the need for additional social services in Mt. Lebanon and find a partner/partners who might help address them. Board will wait until after hearing from Mr. Berkley to invite other speakers such as public safety chiefs or the magistrate.

Commission Liaison Report Commissioner Silverman reported that the Commission gave their approval to move forward with the new mediation process. He noted that the Commission has passed the 2016 budget with no tax rate increase for the third year in a row. He described this budget as "addressing things the needed to be fixed." Mr. Silverman said he expects a formal vote on the new municipal manager to take place at the Commission's January 4 organizational meeting. He also gave an update on the deer management program, with Phase One currently concluding and Phase Two scheduled to begin February 1 following a vote by the new Commission.

Staff Liaison Report: Susan Morgans reported that the new date for the Boards and Authorities Dinner is Monday April 4, because there are fewer conflicts that day. She provided an update on what her office has prepared to promote the Community Service Award. She also said that she had asked the interim manager to suggest that the Commission delay appointing a new CRB member until after hearing the formal presentation on the proposed mediation process.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Community Service Award: Dana Hackley, Annette Bassett and Bob Taylor will serve as the judges for the award. Susan will send out the nomination forms to all via email to share. In addition to appearing in two magazine issues, the nomination form will be on line, will link from Facebook and will be available at the library and recreations centers. We will send out a copy via email to organizations in hopes they might include it in their newsletters, and Susan will send out news releases. A reminder: elected officials and staff cannot participate in any way, although they certainly can suggest that someone else nominate a good candidate they have encountered.

Susan suggested that the judges use the same process that the magazine once used for the This Town Would Be Different Without... awards, which they "borrowed" from the Jefferson Awards. She has served as a judge for the Jefferson Awards and will share the process with the judging committee. Lisa Borrelli Dorn will look into some sort of plaque that could have the name of the winner engraved upon it each time the award is presented, created a sort of "Hall of Fame."

Mediation: Lisa Borrelli Dorn, Susanne Wagner, Judge Blaise Larotonda and Susan Morgans presented the revised mediation concept to the Commission. At the meeting, Blaise told the Commission it would be "good for the CRB and good for the community." Lisa stressed to the Commission that, "This is not a new thing, but a new way of doing what has always been our mission." The board feels strongly that this will remove much

anxiety from the process. Susanne will email Dianne Wainwright and Lisa Borrelli Dorn the "Consent to Mediate" form previously used by the board for their review.

Unicorn Art Dana Hackley reported that Artist Market Chairs Steve and Wendy Denenberg liked the idea of auctioning off artists' unicorns and want the Mt. Lebanon Partnership to consider it. Lisa Borrelli and Dana will take the idea to the partnership.

Magazine Columns The CRB will have five columns in Mt. Lebanon Magazine in 2016, alternating with the Commissioners. The columns will run in March, May, July/August, October and December. Bob Taylor and Annette Bassett will collaborate on the project and take turns writing them. Susanne Wagner will suggest bullet points on which the columns will be based. The title of the column will be Get Engaged. The tentative topics are: Mediation (March), Local Government Structure (May), Neighborhoods (July/August), School District (October) and Volunteer Opportunities (December). The first column is due Wednesday, Jan. 13. Columns should be no more than 700 words. Susan Morgans will edit them.

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 7:30. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6 p.m.