

## **Community Relations Board (CRB) Minutes**

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 6 p.m.

Municipal Building

**Attendance:** Lisa Borrelli Dorn, Robert Taylor, Mark Trumbull, Kiersten Lane, Dana Hackley, Matt Foreman  
Staff Liaison Susan Morgans, Commission Liaison Steve Silverman **Absent:** Dianne Wainwright

**Call to order:** Chair Lisa Borrelli Dorn called the meeting to order at 6 pm

**Introduction of New Member:** The board welcomed new appointee Matt Foreman, who represents Ward I.

**Citizen Comment** There was no citizen comment.

**Consideration of Minutes** The October minutes were unanimously approved.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Chair:**

—Lisa Borrelli Dorn continues to try to respond to a request for a mediation. One party has agreed; she is still trying to reach the other by phone.

—Lisa shared an idea she and Susan Morgans had discussed about the CRB and Public Information Office jointly sponsoring a community academy similar in concept to the fire and police academies but more broad-based and aimed at providing people with an overview of local government. It would be a five- or six-week program, with speakers from various municipal departments participating and in some cases offering hands-on experiences at other buildings. The cost would be minimal—some materials and perhaps T-shirts, certificates and light refreshments. Susan has researched these sorts of academies in the past—they are fairly common. She will see if she can find her previous research and share it with the group. Dana Hackley moved and Matt Foreman seconded that “The Community Relations Board move forward to research having some sort of community involvement program.” The motion passed unanimously. Susan Morgans mentioned that former Commissioner Mary Larsen has also tendered this idea and has suggested that the League of Women Voters might be a good partner for the Community Relations Board and the Public Information Office.

—Lisa congratulated the winners of the Governor’s Commission for Women’s first “Women Celebrating Women event: Mary Larsen, Rania Harris, Carolyn Byham, Terri Greenberg and Susan Morgans

#### **Commission Liaison:**

Commissioner Steve Silverman discussed the municipal budget and the need for a bond expenditure to fund several major capital improvements, including improvements to the public works facility, the ice rinks and the purchase of a new fire truck.

#### **TOPIC OF THE MONTH: Library**

Library Director Robin Vittek discussed the library’s services and its growing role as a community center. She noted that although the library wants young people to feel comfortable there, the after-school crowd can sometimes become a problem, particularly when parents who work outside the home tell their children to go to the library instead of going home alone. The modern day library is not a quiet place, she noted. Ms. Vittek also discussed the library’s Live Learn Stay Play initiative, which aims to engage empty nesters in the community through partnerships that offer exciting learning experiences. As part of this initiative, Pitt’s Osher Institute will be operating a satellite program at the library next spring. Commissioner Silverman suggested she connect with Mount Lebanon Village. The CRB indicated its willingness to help at any time if there were a role for them and thanked Ms. Vittek for coming.

The application form for the Community Service Award will appear in the December and January Mt. Lebanon Magazines, with the deadline being February 20 and the award to be announced in the May Mt. Lebanon Magazine. Bob Taylor will write a column about the award for the Jan/Feb. magazine.

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Community App:** Dana Hackley will talk with Nick Schalles about his plans for developing a community app and report back to the board.

**Speakers:** Fire Chief Nick Sohyda will speak in January. Lisa may ask Nick Schalles to speak in February. Steve Silverman suggested inviting MRTSA. Susan Morgans suggested hearing from representatives of the real estate community regarding trends, newcomer's perceptions, etc.

**"Get Engaged" Column:** January column is on Outstanding Volunteer Award. March column will be an overview of parks. Bob Taylor will write.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Is Commissioner's column in MTL valuable. Members will ask their friends if they appreciate the column and also what topics they would like to hear about and report back. Commissioner Silverman can then share the results with the Commission.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT** The next meeting is Wednesday, December 14, at 6 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:25.