

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 4 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Valerie Cruse, Wendy Dobyns, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy, Taylor Sutphen and Jennifer Washington.

Members Absent: Charlene Adams

Ex-Officio members present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Talon Flohr - Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Staff Present: Naomi Twine – Commission Liaison & Kelly Kresser - Clerk

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Taylor Sutphen and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018, meeting. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Chairman Harris introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Community Relations Commission, Dr. Valerie Cruse.

Welcoming Sandusky Task Force

Soni-Vyas-Wert with the Center for Peace Through Understanding and the Welcoming Sandusky Task Force said this group asked for and received a Resolution proclaiming Sandusky as a welcoming and safe community for immigrants on September 24. This is a non-religious organization committed to making Sandusky a welcoming and safe place through dialogue and education. After passage of the Resolution, the Task Force held their first meeting to discuss future initiatives; about 30 persons attended and many ideas were shared. Soni said Talon Flohr encouraged her to attend a CRC meeting to see if there is interest in working together to make some things on their list a reality. The Sandusky Register has agreed to publish articles about their efforts and they would like to host a Human Family Reunion or Diversity Festival as an initial event to celebrate diversity while helping to attract and/or retain talent in our area. Chairman Harris said he likes the idea of holding an International Festival and asked about helping to promote it. Jennifer Washington thought consideration could be given to assisting those who were displaced this year after the raid at Corso's. Commissioner Twine indicated this is not Sanctuary City legislation and the Resolution was a public acclamation Sandusky is a welcome place for immigrants and for diversity. The focus should be on collaborative outreach and activities. Kelly Kresser asked about the captive audience of persons who are becoming U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony and John Orzech indicated this includes persons from a larger region and more than Sandusky and Erie County residents. Soni thanked the members for having her speak and said she will follow-up with staff members (Talon and Kelly) about working together.

Update on Neighborhood Initiative

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, said the recent meeting regarding the **future of Jaycee Park** and the entire neighborhood was successful and 250 surveys have been returned thus far. Approximately \$300,000 is budgeted for improvements in 2019 and will include building a north/south connector trail, basketball court improvements and upgrades to the park entrance. The city applied to participate in the Innovative Readiness Training program through the Department of Defense (DOD). If approved, the community will provide all the materials necessary for the connector trail to be built between Jaycee Park North and Jaycee Park South, and the DOD will provide manpower to actually build it.

Open Discussion

John Orzech said **one additional Police Officer, Makayla Cook, started with the Police Department** in November.

OLD BUSINESS


None.

NEW BUSINESS


The **2019 meetings** were scheduled for 4 p.m. on March 14, June 20, September 12 and December 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Daryl Murphy and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. Chairperson Harris declared the motion passed.



Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk
Date: 4 / 4 / 19



Anthony Harris, Chairperson
Date: 4 / 4 / 19