

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The meeting began at 7:35 p.m.

Members Present were: Kevin Hammett, Rick Ransom, Dea Zugby, Jackie Carington, Dan Hamlin, Janet Parker, Elizabeth Hammett and David Moran, Staff Liaison. Bill Orleans and Donna Hoffmeister of the Prince George's Peace & Justice Coalition (PGPJC) were also present.

Minutes

CRAB unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on 9/11/08 as presented.

Council Referral – Request from PGPJC to Change Peace Month

David provided some background on the Council referral, PGPJC's request and the City's past Peace Month activities. Janet expressed concern about the request to add "Diversity" to the event title since the City already had diversity programs. Dan believed the request made sense and since there was a community group willing to facilitate the event, the City should support the request. Kevin noted that the Eleanor Roosevelt Birthday celebration had been a key component of past peace month activities. He stressed the need for a committed group of volunteers to organize and conduct these activities. The PGPJC representatives were asked to explain their proposal.

Donna wanted to associate Peace Month with Greenbelt Day. When asked about PGPJC's specific plans for peace month, she indicated they had not yet put together any kind of program. After several CRAB members asked PGPJC about what they might do, Donna reported that in the past PGPJC had organized lectures and film showings. Bill indicated that PGPJC wanted to coordinate with other communities that were holding May peace months. Rick asked about Cheverly's program. David responded that the Cheverly program had been coordinated by a group of volunteers. Rick expressed concern that a June peace month might be problematic for school participation.

There was discussion of the ERHS peace month event and an indication that it no longer occurs because a key organizer retired. Kevin reported on past efforts to organize study circles where only a very small number participated. Janet preferred an October peace month because of the significant dates in that month (Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday, united nations day, etc.) Dee and Jackie expressed support for trying peace month in June. Dan suggested the City declare June as peace month for at least two years (given the short amount of time to plan a 2009 event).

There was consensus for CRAB to recommend that June be declared peace and diversity month, but that the City look for ways to continue to mark significant dates in October.

Council Referral – Martin Luther King Observance

Dan believed the City did not need to hold another event. He did believe there was value in the City responding to President Obama's call for greater community service. Kevin indicated that more time would be needed to consider this referral and suggested that an additional meeting be scheduled.

Next Meeting

CRAB scheduled the next meeting for April 28.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by David E. Moran, Staff Liaison