

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019 IN THE MEETING ROOM AT SCHROM HILLS PARK.

The meeting began at 7:42 pm.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Dea Zugby, Dan Hamlin, Jamie Krauk, Ray Raysor, Lisa Lake, and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone and Lisa read the Community Pledge.

Approval of Minutes

Lisa moved approval of the minutes from February 9, 2019. Dea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Feedback

There was no community feedback.

Referral on Holiday Decorating Contest

David referenced the memo from the City Clerk which described the referral.

Dan asked what objective this new program was intended to achieve. He wanted to know the goal of this program. He noted that participants would have to have money in order to participate.

Rick expressed concern about monetary prizes.

Ray wanted to know the take away.

Lisa believed it was a feel good – community unity type of program. She was also concerned about the costs involved for participants.

Dea did not think there should be a contest. She favored voluntary decorations.

Dan expressed concern about turning the Christmas holiday into a contest. Dan again questioned what were we trying to accomplish and was this idea the best way to do it.

Ray stated that in Franklin Park there were a lot more pressing issues.

Dea liked the City's current tree lighting program.

Jamie asked how Franklin Park felt about the City tree lighting. Ray responded that most people in Franklin Park don't know where Roosevelt Center is located.

Rick stated he would rather see the City have a program where people comment on decorations and the City could summarize these comments in the News Review or online.

Ray moved that CRAB did not think this proposal should go forward. His reasons were: staff workload, cost of gift cards and concerns that there is a cost to participants for decorations. Dan seconded.

Kevin observed that this referral was to three Boards and asked to what extent the Boards needed to work together on a response. David responded that it was really up to the advisory groups as to how to respond. He noted each group usually submits their own report, but sometime there are collaborative efforts or joint meetings held.

Jamie stated that CRAB's report to Council could express appreciation of the proposal's holiday spirit, but indicate the concerns about barriers to entry for participation.

Ray indicated there were already a lot of activities occurring at holiday time.

Dan appreciated Jamie's positive approach. He agreed that CRAB could express appreciation for the suggestion, but indicate that without a more compelling objective, CRAB doesn't recommend it at this time.

Several CRAB members observed that the City is already doing a lot at holiday time.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Panhandling at Greenway Center

David recounted Bill's concern raised at the last meeting.

Discussion of Homeless Situations in Greenbelt

Rick discussed the previous presence of a homeless woman near the Municipal Building (Tabitha) and noted it was never resolved. Rick asked where do you go if you are homeless.

Lisa recalled the discussion about Tabitha. She reported that someone knew her status. Lisa observed that she was moved by the community's knowledge about her situation.

Jamie reported that this issue was one of the most polarizing issues on the Greenbelters group. Jamie noted that people can be of multiple minds. She thought people retreated to their "corners." Jamie suggested a session to have some community dialogue.

Rick was not sure CRAB could solve the problem, but thought there were some basic principles that CRAB could share.

Dan referenced homeless situations. He observed the vast majority are temporary, women with small children, living in cars, etc. Dan wanted to learn how to talk to each other and not demonize each other.

Jamie favored a dialogue opportunity with the community.

Reports from CRAB (ear to the ground)

Lisa suggested a survey. Jamie suggested this be discussed in the future.

2019 Meeting Schedule

CRAB agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30pm. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Dan noted he would not be able to make that date, but encouraged CRAB to carry on.

The meeting ended at 9:06pm.