

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016, IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

The meeting began at 7:38p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Dan Hamlin, Kevin Hammett, Janet Jacobs-Parker, Sherry Burks, Dea Zugby, Edward V. J. Putens, Council Liaison and David Moran, Staff Liaison

Also present were: Elizabeth Barber, Barbara Simon and Bill Orleans.

Minutes from February 2, 2016

Janet moved approval. Sherry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from March 8, 2016

Janet moved approval with Jamie's requested changes. Dan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Referral – Petition from Elizabeth Barber

Barbara Simon explained Dr. Barber's proposal to convert an unused newspaper box into a free magazine box. Betsy was willing to be in charge of collecting the magazines and restocking them. Barbara thought volunteers could paint the box and label it "free magazines".

Betsy showed a hand-made bag from Papua New Guinea as a sample design for painting the box with bright colors. Betsy noted this had been a Washington Post Express box.

Dea reported that there were still Washington Post Express newspapers at a box at the Greenbelt Metro Station.

Rick asked about trash accumulating in these newspaper boxes. Ed indicated this hadn't been a problem.

Janet thought the proposal was a good idea.

Dan believed in reusing materials and like this aspect. He did not think race or age should be attached to the proposal and magazines should be available to everyone. He expressed concern about copying an indigenous art design to repaint the box.

Sherry thought it was an awesome idea. She also expressed concern about targeting a particular group and wanted to include everyone.

Betsy indicated she had travel, national geographic and cooking magazines that could be provided. She agreed to monitor the box for trash and reported she walks by the box every day.

It was noted there are “bring one – take one” boxes for books on Greenhill Road and at the Club 125 maker space in Roosevelt Center and this was a similar idea.

Ed liked the proposal. He commented on a similar box near his workplace.

Barbara indicated that if the idea was approved, she would promote it in the News Review.

Rick suggested CRAB recommend approval for a trial period of six months. There was consensus to make this recommendation to the City Council.

Syrian Refugee Referral

Rick referenced the suggestions in Jamie’s email. He noted that CRAB wanted to broaden the referral to become a more welcoming community for anyone. Rick indicated that there was a group of citizens already motivated to help.

Janet got the impression this group was looking for the CRAB/City to do something. Rick and Kevin believed the group was motivated to help.

Dan reported this group was continuing to work with others in the County and the State. He believed the group was hoping Greenbelt would do something to welcome non-native born persons to Greenbelt.

There was discussion about CRAB’s participation in community festivals. Kevin saw it as an opportunity for CRAB to be welcoming but also get out in the community.

Rick wanted to set up a future meeting at the Greenbelt Station neighborhood. Ed mentioned a City event at Greenbelt Station was being planned to share information about Greenbelt.

Rick suggested that CRAB invite the petitioners to the next CRAB meeting to review any recommendations.

Dan discussed the recommendation to update the welcome packet and suggested that a group (existing Welcome Packet volunteers, the GEAC group working on an international program, folks with international expertise & any others) work on updating the welcome packet or creation of a separate pamphlet to provide useful information to new, non-native residents.

Ed suggested that there were existing materials available that could be incorporated into the Welcome Packet.

Dan thought Jamie’s ideas were the foundation for a recommendation to Council. Rick wanted to have a draft report for the next meeting and meet again with the petitioners.

Other Business

The Board scheduled the next meeting for May 17.

Ed invited CRAB members to a future GEAC meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:51p.m.