

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD METING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016, IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

The meeting began at 7:37 p.m.

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

Also present were: Josh Hamlin, Stephanie Warner and Bill Orleans.

Janet read the Community Pledge. Rick observed a moment of silence for Jacquie Carrington.

Minutes from April 5, 2016 and April 19, 2016

These two sets of minutes were approved by acclamation.

Other Business

Janet noted there were many small businesses at Roosevelt Center and Beltway Plaza including two women owned businesses. Janet also expressed concern about Dr. Barber's comment that "Greenbelt needed to more friendly towards African-Americans."

Dea relayed several examples of racism she had observed at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

Rick believed there would always be racism. He stated this was why the City had adopted the Pledge and engaged in efforts to counteract racism.

Dan indicated that Greenbelt is not Utopia, not perfect and Greenbelt needs to hear suggestions.

CRAB Report 2016-2 - Request from Elizabeth Barber

Dan moved approval. Kevin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CRAB Report 2016-3 - Syrian Refugee Referral

Dan moved approval. Dea seconded.

There was discussion of the new committee suggested in the report. Rick believed this committee needed a point person on City staff. Dan believed this could evolve over time.

It was noted there were people from all over the World living in Greenbelt.

Stephanie expressed a wish that the City provide an environment (social activities, programs, etc.) for Muslim people to meet non-Muslim people in Greenbelt. She wanted to highlight that Muslim citizens are professionals and members of our community and working/living here now.

Josh believed it was important for the City to sponsor or be affiliated with activities which fostered interaction with Muslims.

Kevin stated that the Community Pledge celebrates the diversity of Greenbelt. He favored providing more of the discussion that occurred related to CRAB's fundamental role and the community pledge. Kevin suggested a more generic recommendation that suggested more events/discussions encouraging people of different faiths and cultures to get together.

Bill suggested a welcoming dinner for Greenbelters be held periodically at the Community Center. Bill also suggested that CRAB form a community team similar to the Green Team.

Kevin believed that any time you can get people together to foster a sense of community there is beneficial communication.

Dan noted that local churches had hosted similar events. He wanted language included in the report that would build bridges between Muslim and non-Muslim Greenbelters.

Dan stated that islamaphobia and bigotry exists. He did not want to spell out specific solutions, but wanted to acknowledge that it was real.

Rick favored amending the language in the report. CRAB members agreed to work on some additional language and schedule another meeting in early June to approve the final report.

#### Peace Month 2016

David updated CRAB on Peace Month plans.

#### Status of Wall of Honor

David reported on the Wall on Honor project.

#### Other Business

The meeting ended at 9:03 p.m.