

## **Community Relations Board (CRB) Minutes**

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 6 p.m.

Municipal Building

**Attendance:** Lisa Borrelli Dorn, Dianne Wainwright, Robert Taylor, Matt Foreman, Kiersten Lane, Commission Liaison Steve Silverman, Staff Liaison Susan Morgans **Absent:** Mark Trumbull, Dana Hackley

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lisa Borrelli Dorn called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

January minutes were approved with one correction.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Jennifer Rick, Sunridge Drive, expressed her belief that hateful acts taking place in the school are reflective of the community. She said that anything the community can do to support the school would be good. She wondered what the protocol is regarding parents who have questions talking to the police.

Lisa Borrelli Dorn said she would talk with Chief Lauth about a protocol.

Dianne Wainwright said it is not illegal to say something that offends another person. The challenge is what to do about it—what do we say when we hear something offensive? A discussion followed regarding whether we could have experts address this subject and perhaps even do some role playing.

Bob Taylor reiterated the board's intention to include diversity efforts/events in existing events such as the July 4 celebration, an approach that the library endorses.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Chair**

Lisa Borrelli met with Sharon Bruni from the library to talk about the proposed contest. It is possible we could have a gallery opening there. She told Sharon that the board would like to collaborate with the library on other issues this year. Lisa also talked with Commonwealth Press about making T-shirts or merchandise that could be sold and/or used for prizes.

Lisa met with Mt. Lebanon Partnership regarding their plans for a diversity festival on Parse Way. She told them the Community Relations Board could not take the lead on the event but agreed to attend future meetings to see if there is a role for the CRB.

#### **Commissioner**

Commissioner Steve Silverman attended the program at Temple Emanuel on combating anti-Semitism and other expressions of hatred. It was a good start, but more needs to be done, he said, as problems continue.

Steve also noted that the ice rink is now closed for six months for extensive repair and that deer sharp shooting has begun.

#### **Staff Liaison**

Susan Morgans said the school district wants its issues to remain school district issues; however, if incidents of hatred are taking place elsewhere in the community, the community relations board should know and respond. Susan will craft a statement to run with the CRB magazine column encouraging people to involve the CRB when appropriate.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **Art Contest**

Title of the contest, which will take place between April and deadline of July 1, is "Unity in the Community." Board will accept digital files showing diversity in a positive light from the contestants in two divisions, middle school and high school. In order to verify authenticity, once narrowed down, finalists will have to submit originals. Files should be submitted to Susan Morgans.

The winning designs will be designs that can be reproduced on T-shirts or mugs, etc., and sold in stores, beneficiary to be determined.

The library will display the original artwork throughout the year, and it also can hang in the municipal building. The magazine will feature the winners; they can get a "shout-out" and citation at a Commission meeting.

Bob Taylor and Susan Morgans will work together on publicity—Magazine, Facebook posts, news releases and other means. Bob will announce the contest in his CRB column, which he will get to Susan next week.

### **Membership**

The board thanked Dianne Wainwright for her two terms of dedicated membership. Board would like to have a small celebration at Dianne's last meeting in March. Steve Silverman asked what the board was looking for a new member—the Commission will be making a selection soon. The board said we need a diverse membership, mediation skills and a commitment to making the community a good place for all.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dianne invited everyone to attend Christ United Methodist Church's free interfaith forum on Sunday from 2-4. Susan will publicize it on Facebook.

## **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 8, at 6 p.m.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:30.