

Committee on Community Diversity

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2009

Administrative Conference Room

Municipal Government Center

1. **Call to Order**

Committee Members Present: Chairman, Terry Wright, Vice-Chairman Larry Hamilton, Helen Cuff, and Fred Enderle. Not Present: Bill Vogt and Gordon Wise asked to be excused due to previous commitments. Guest present: Deb Osborne.

2. Mr. Wright requested someone take the minutes. No one volunteered to take the minutes and Mr. Wright then took the minutes.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2009 were approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. **Possible Column Discussion**

Mr. Wright asked if anyone would have the time to write a possible monthly column concerning summaries of the Committee on Community Diversity's work. No one volunteered. Mr. Wright said that he would bring the issue up again during the July meeting for the benefit of the two absent members.

4. **Committee Membership**

As members began to study the **Revision Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming Policy** to be recognized henceforth as the **June 2, 2009 Draft of the Revision Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming Policy**, Mr. Hamilton questioned Mr. Enderle about the board membership status to the Committee on Community Diversity.

Mr. Enderle reiterated that the residency policy was currently in place for membership on city committees and he had talked with the commissioners and they did not wish to change that.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he was not addressing the residency rule but Mr. Enderle's decision not to allow city employees serve as voting members on the city boards. Mr. Enderle said that there would be no internal challenge. Mr. Enderle emphatically stated that was his decision and as city manager he could make that decision because he was responsible for all of the city employees.

Mr. Wright told Mr. Enderle that he felt the city manager was missing out on a great deal of free talent for those city employees who wished to volunteer their time to help the city. Mr. Enderle said that they could volunteer on various city committees but could not vote.

Mr. Wright asked Mr. Enderle if he was a city employee and held votes on various committees as well as his department heads. Mr. Enderle said that department heads held no votes on city committees. Mr. Wright asked about the Piqua Improvement Committee (PIC) and Mr. Enderle said that committee was different.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there was another opinion the committee could seek to clarify the matter and Mr. Enderle said that Mr. Hamilton could go through the city law director but she would advise the Committee the same way.

Upon motion made by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Wright a motion was made to ask Mr. Enderle to seek a written opinion for the Committee from the Piqua City Law Director concerning the voting membership and status of city employees serving on city sponsored boards and committees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hamilton asked Mr. Enderle if the Committee could seek legal counsel outside of the committee on that decision and Mr. Enderle said that legal decision outside the Committee was not allowed. Mr. Enderle said that the president (of the Committee) could not pass such a motion to seek outside council because the Committee's only responsibility was to "advise" the commissioners about diversity issues. Mr. Enderle stated that the Committee had no power to do anything. ~~Mr. Enderle said that the Committee was there at the appointment of the commissioners and defined statutorily under the direction and authority of the city manager. He said that if Committee members didn't respond as such they could resign from the committee.~~

Mr. Hamilton stated that he and others wished to gain a further understanding of the city manager's role in the matter and would seek individual outside resources concerning the matter.

4. June 2, 2009 Draft of the Revision Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming Policy

The Committee reviewed and made changes to the **Draft of the Revision Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming Policy**, henceforth to be known as **June 2, 2009 Draft of the Revision Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming Policy**. Please see a copy of that revised draft attached herewith.

5. Potential Applicant's Letters

Mr. Hamilton requested that all of the potential board applicants' letters to the Committee on Community Diversity be invited, again, to the next Committee on Community Diversity meeting on July 7. Mr. Enderle said that he would gather those applications together and arrange for the invitations to be sent.

6. Request for City Commission Action

Mr. Wright reminded the committee that at the last Committee on Community Diversity meeting the committee passed a motion requesting that letters be sent to all of those organizations, groups and individuals concerned or potentially concerned in naming or renaming of city streets/facility issues. The committee passed that motion recognizing the city's adopted diversity resolution (**Resolution 110-07**). The committee noted that it was important for organizations, groups and individuals to be sensitive to the city's diversity when considering naming and renaming policies. Mr. Enderle said that he forgot to put that item on the agenda at the last city commission meeting and apologized. He said that he would put the item on the next city commission agenda.

7. Follow-up for the McCulloch Dedication Ceremony

Mr. Hamilton informed the Committee about the progress of the McCulloch Dedication Ceremony. Mr. Hamilton discussed the potential speakers, musical groups and guests who would take part in that event.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the same location.

Mr. Hamilton moved for adjournment, seconded by Mrs. Cuff. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry D. Wright

Amended on July 7, 2009 at meeting (per minutes of July 7, 2009)