

Committee on Community Diversity

Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2009

Administrative Conference Room

Municipal Government Center

1. **Call to Order**

Committee Members Present: Vice-Chairman Larry Hamilton, Helen Cuff, Gordon Wise, Bill Vogt and Fred Enderle. Not Present: Chairman Terry Wright asked to be excused due to personal commitment. Guests present: Deb Osborne, Barbara Miller and Rick Ghere.

Vice-Chair Larry Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Mr. Hamilton requested someone take the minutes. Fred Enderle volunteered to take the minutes.

2. **Minutes**

Mr. Enderle indicated that the comments attributed to him in the last two sentences in the eight paragraph of item number 4 were incorrect. He stated he did not make those comments. His comments were related to the responsibilities of the City Commission and City Manager as defined in the City Charter. Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Cuff indicated that they did not recall those comments being made. Mr. Hamilton indicated the sums of Mr. Enderle's comments were reflected in the balance of the paragraph. Mr. Wise indicated that in fairness to the Chairman he was trying to chair the meeting and take notes, which made it difficult. Mr. Wise made a motion to approve the minutes as the amendment, with the two sentences removed. Mrs. Cuff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

3. **New Business**

a. **Legal Opinion-Status of City Employees serving on City Boards & Commissions**

Mr. Enderle handed out copies of an opinion from the City Law Director regarding the issue. Larry Hamilton indicated Terry Wright initiated the question of the authority to appoint members to City Boards and Commissions. He indicated that Ms. Wall's memo indicates that by definition of Charter and City Code, the City Manager has authority over City employees. Mr. Vogt indicated that if the Committee did not get off challenging the City Manager and get on with the business of addressing diversity issues, he would seek to have the committee disbanded. Mr. Wise indicated that it was time to move on with the business of diversity. Mr. Hamilton indicated he agrees with getting on with business, but felt there was a dialog on the issue because some did not feel there was a clear policy, but now there is a statement from the Law Director, and he stated, " while I am not necessarily happy", indicating it is the City Managers privilege to make those decisions. He indicated the threat of disbanding the

Committee if it didn't get on with diversity, did bother him. Mr. Vogt stated it was not a threat, but a promise, that if the Committee did not get on with what their mission was that he would recommend the City Commission do away with the City Committee and the group could form under some other organization. He stated that maybe the diversity of the Committee is not what some would like, but there are forms of diversity. Mr. Hamilton stated there had to be an opportunity to debate an issue to some conclusion. He asked Mr. Vogt what authority he had to dismantle the Committee. Mr. Vogt indicated it was his authority as a City Commissioner to recommend to the City Commission.

Mr. Wise asked for clarification from Mr. Enderle, stating it was not the purview of the Commission but the City Manager. Mr. Enderle stated that was correct. Another City Manager might feel differently about the issue.

b. Letters sent to organizations and individuals in regards to Resolution Number R-110-07.

Mr. Hamilton indicated copies of the letters were provided. He indicated the Committee's request was complied with and appreciated.

Mr. Wise asked if we had received any feedback. Mr. Enderle stated we had not. Mr. Vogt indicated he thought the resolution was accepted by all.

4. Final Revised Policy for City Streets/Facilities Naming

Mr. Enderle indicated all the changes agreed to at the June 2 meeting were incorporated and the policy was put in final form for final Committee review. Mr. Vogt asked what the changes were from the last meeting. Mr. Enderle reviewed the changes noting the biggest change was cleaning up the process section, to make it more clear and simple.

Mr. Hamilton pointed out that we kept the requirement of a petition signed by 51% of those abutting a street in support of an application. There could be a case of less than 50% on the street supporting, but a large majority of City residents in favor. Mr. Enderle indicated that we also clarified in the section that anything less than 51% does not constitute automatic denial. Mr. Wise indicated it was all evidence for consideration.

Ms. Osborne indicated that she felt the first sentence in the third paragraph did not read well, it left in question who the sentence was referring to. Mr. Enderle suggested a revision to the sentence to read "*Any proposed naming of public facilities should be made in awareness of the City of Piqua's policy (Resolution No. R-110-07, passed October 1, 2007) regarding diversity in naming public facilities. It calls for the City to recognize the vital role of diversity in the community and the importance of working with and empowering its individuals and community organizations and encouraging their greater municipal participation in the decision making process.*"

Mr. Wise indicated that it appeared that the "Process for Naming a Public Facility" should have 4 bullet points. Mr. Enderle agreed they were intended but somehow left off.

Mr. Wise made a motion to accept the policy and recommend the City Commission adopt the policy for City Facilities/Street Naming as amended. Mrs. Cuff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business

Mr. Hamilton commented on the success of the McCulloch Square dedication ceremony and indicated that Chairman Terry Wright thought the committee Co-Chairs: Andy Burner and Mike Gutmann should be recognized for their leadership in the effort. Mr. Vogt made a motion to recommend that City Commission adopt a resolution in recognition and appreciation for the work of Andy Burner and Mike Gutmann. Mr. Wise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wise indicated it was an honor and privilege to serve on the event planning committee.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the guests had any comments.

Ms. Miller indicated she liked the diversity of the group and diversity ideas. She stated it was good to see they could disagree on issues but come to a resolution. She questioned what was next for the committee after completing the facility naming policy. Mr. Enderle referred to the Committee's charge from the City Commission and indicated the committee really needs to determine what the issues are and recommend strategies, policies, etc. to address those issues. Mr. Hamilton asked if the candidates got a copy of the resolution establishing the committee and its charge. Most indicated they had not. Mr. Enderle said staff would provide a copy.

Ms. Miller indicated she had a handicapped daughter and was aware of issues of diversity and wanted a chance to help educate people about those issues and concerns.

Ms. Osborne indicated she is also a Park Board member, but was looking for an opportunity to serve in another capacity. She indicated she has attended a number of the meetings now, and is interested in the work of the Committee.

Mr. Ghere indicated he heard about the opening on the Committee and was interested in helping.

Mrs. Cuff made a motion to accept the nomination of Richard Ghere, Barbara Miller and Debra Osborne to the Diversity Committee and recommend their appointments to the City Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamilton. The motion passed unanimously.

The Community Diversity Committee will meet

The Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick E. Enderle