

Committee on Community Diversity  
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Administrative Conference Room  
Municipal Government Center

1. **Call to Order**

Committee Members Present: Chairman Terry Wright, Vice-Chairman Larry Hamilton, Fred Enderle, Helen Cuff, Barbara Miller, Karen Schultz.

Guest: Kris Lee

Not Present and Excused: Commissioner Judy Terry and Gordon Wise

Committee Chairman Terry Wright called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. **New Business** Mr. Hamilton provided a videotaping for the Committee to view of a TV broadcast of "Our World with Black Enterprise" hosted by Marc Lamont Hill on WLIO-Lima in which the topic was Bullying. A panel of three speakers featuring Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights; Dr. Jeff Gardiere, Child Psychologist; and mother of child, Joshua Jordon Stone, that committed suicide after repeated bullying at school. After the viewing, the Committee discussed their role, defining bullying, how to link with others in the community, etc. Ms. Shultz said she had sent an email to everyone concerning receiving a packet from Tolerance.org. She offered to host a session on bullying which would include a self-assessment and 45 minute presentation. All together, the presentation would take about an hour and 30 minutes. Much discussion ensued over the responsibility of the community, schools, parents and leaders to eliminate bullying. Mr. Lee also has done presentations on bullying, recently to Piqua Catholic School. He informed the Committee that Piqua City Schools has their own programs in place and not sure that they would want our assistance. Mr. Lee told the Committee that there is help for citizens being harassed over the phone or computer, under Ohio Revised Code Telecommunication Harassment (2917.21 Effective 9/13/2010).

Ms. Shultz went on to discuss how bullying is more than power over someone else; it has become more and more of entitlement behavior. There is a lack of empathy, growing number of females engaged in the behavior and assertiveness being replaced by aggressiveness.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there was a level of community involvement such as Step 1, 2, 3, 4. Mr. Lee responded that each individual school develops their own programs and policies. Mr. Hamilton then asked how to gain involvement from the community to help our education systems with this issue. Mr. Enderle recommended that the Committee learn more about bullying by attending a presentation hosted by Ms. Shultz, and then take it from the perspective of education the public, not the schools. Ms. Shultz was agreeable to hosting a presentation. She then suggested gathering interested citizens together to discuss the topic, even forming a Task Force of educators, parents, community leaders, etc. to find solutions. Since Ms. Shultz' presentation will take over an hour, the Committee decided to tentatively schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to enable the full presentation. If there is a conflict in Committee members' calendar, they should email or notify Mr. Enderle's office.

3. **Approval of Minutes** from the November 2, 2010. Mr. Enderle made a motion that the minutes be approved, Mrs. Cuff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Signage for the Rossville area
  - b. Nomination of Mr. McCullough for famous Ohioans
  - c. Review Diversity Committee Work Plan (Attachment Res. No. R-41-10)

Signage for the Rossville area. Mr. Enderle explained that signage should be up this week. Bigger signs will be posted at locations prior to North Dixie.

Nomination for Mr. McCullough. Mr. Hamilton submitted the nomination paperwork to the City for Mr. McCullough for the list of famous Ohioans featured at the State House in Columbus, Ohio. The nomination was then submitted by the City. No status has been received yet as to the number of nominations or names.

Review Diversity Committee Work Plan. Mr. Wise and Ms. Terry had suggested putting the work plans in some type of priority listing. Since neither member was in attendance, this topic was put on hold.

5. **Other Business**

Mr. Hamilton wanted to mention the passing of Ms. Helen Gilmore. Mr. Wright praised Ms. Gilmore's hosting a tour of York Ryal Museum for the Diversity Committee. The Committee extended their condolences to her family. Mr. Hamilton relayed that Ms. Gilmore's husband, Isaac; remaining owner would make the museum available by reservation.

Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Administrative conference Room of the Municipal Government Complex.

Mr. Hamilton motioned to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. and Mr. Enderle seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Miller, Recording Secretary