

Committee on Community Diversity  
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 (**Amended 4/5/2011**)

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 and Judy Terry.

Not Present and Excused: Gordon Wise.

Chairman Terry Wright called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes** from January 5, 2011 meeting. Ms. Cuff moved that the minutes be approved, Mr. Enderle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **New Business.**

- a. Review of Draft Letter to be sent to Community Groups (Re: Bullying Issue)  
Ms. Karen Schulz and Mr. Fred Enderle  
Draft has not been completed so this item of business is tabled until next meeting.
- b. Discuss proposing a resolution of Appreciation for Mrs. Helen Gilmore  
Mr. Hamilton had proposed an addendum recognizing the work of Mrs. Helen Gilmore. Mr. Enderle distributed a copy of the Proclamation recognizing Mrs. Gilmore and her research, restoration and maintenance of the African Jackson Cemetery in Rossville and the Rossville Museum. The City of Piqua declares that March 1, 2011 be Helen Dehlia Russell Gilmore Day. Mr. Hamilton moved that the Proclamation distributed by Mr. Enderle be presented for signature to the Mayor. Mrs. Terry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Personal Vision for Piqua presented by Mr. Hamilton  
Mr. Hamilton presented "Freedom's Struggle" (The Right initiative for the Rossville Historical Area) which proposes a memorial dedicated to:
  1. Preserving the legacy and heritage of the Randolph Freedmen in the Upper Miami Valley and a story of struggle from slavery to freedom in U.S. History.
  2. Honoring the service of those laid to rest in the African Cemetery as Civil War veterans who for the "the love of liberty" defended this nation's quest for the expansion of freedom.
  3. Educating the public and memorializing the crucial role of Piqua Congressman William M. McCulloch in advancing the struggle for freedom during the Civil rights era in U.S. History.

Mr. Hamilton reiterated that this has been a personal vision that he plans to pursue. He showed the Committee a short clip from 2006 and power point presentation. Mr. Hamilton said that he is open to creative ideas for design concepts for the monument. He has already spoken to several groups and individuals to obtain ideas and support for funding as this will be very expensive. As an example of his vision for the monument, he referred to the Battle Creek, Michigan, Monument Park, which includes a 12-foot monument of Sojourner Truth funded in part by the Kellogg foundation, ~~which was over \$750,000.~~ Mr. Hamilton has also spoken to educational and athletic departments and has been pleased with their response. He informed the group that he has discussed ideas with a few football coaches about a fundraiser tied to a football preview/scrimmage in Piqua. Something of a Football Classic is what he is thinking of. Other ideas have been utilizing the canal boat for a ride to the City of Piqua, stagecoach ride featuring a presentation at each stop which may help revitalize downtown and the hotel, etc. There was much discussion on the topic and ideas to raise funding as the Committee agreed that it is a worthwhile project. The first question raised by Mrs. Terry was to determine if the land site would be available for the monument. Mr. Enderle commented that it would be helpful to get an interest group to get involved to carry the ball. Mr. Hamilton said that he is hopeful that with everything going on with the Positively Promoting Piqua group, that people recognize this project would also positively promote Piqua. His principle goal is to determine the amount of interest in this project. Mrs. Terry said that there needs to be a plan first – give some outreach and let people know of this project, she believes it is a worthwhile cause. There should be communication efforts to inform the community through media (newspaper and TV), newsletter, etc. so people become aware. Mr. Enderle said that it is a good idea and should be pursued; he believes it is a worthwhile cause and reminded that the City’s interest would be from a historical perspective.

4. **Old Business**

- a. Community Stakeholders “Bullying” meeting – tied into New Business (a)
- b. Review Diversity Committee Work Plan (Attachment Res. No. R-41-10) – tabled until Mr. Wise is present

5. **Other Business**

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th at 5 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of the Municipal Government Complex.

Mrs. Terry motioned to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. and Mr. Hamilton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Miller, Recording Secretary