

Committee on Community Diversity

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

5:00 P.M.

Municipal Government Complex – Administrative Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Committee Members Present: Chairman Terry Wright, Vice-Chairman Larry Hamilton, Fred Enderle, Gordon Wise, Helen Cuff and Roger Hartley

Absent: Judy Terry

Chairman Terry Wright called the meeting to order at 5:06 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2011 meeting

- a. Chairman Terry Wright presented the June 14, 2011 minutes for approval. It was mentioned the minutes from that meeting showed “Commissioner” Gordie Wise. Chairman Wright stated that “Commissioner” would be removed as a title. On a motion from Roger Hartley, second by Helen Cuff, the minutes were approved with the changes for the June 14, 2011 Community Diversity Committee. Motion carried.

3. New Business

- a. Mr. Wright reviewed the discussion/ presentation by Mr. Don Craig of the Piqua YMCA that took place at the June meeting. Gordie Wise stated he read the minutes from the previous meeting in regards to the “bullying” issues facing children and adults and he stated he felt Terry did a great job in summarizing that presentation in his minutes. All the Committee Members felt the presentation was great. Mr. Wise commented after reading the minutes in regards to a statement made, which was that successful parental involvement is the key to some of the “bullying issues.” Gordie stated this was the perfect analogy. He said that parents must get more involved with their children and monitor their behavior.
- b. Also Terry reported that Mr. Craig would ask around at the YMCA to see if there might be an interest from someone to serve on this Committee. Roger Hartley asked if the next City Manager would automatically serve on this Committee, to which City Manager Enderle replied they would. Helen Cuff told Mr. Enderle that the Committee would certainly miss him.

4. Other Business

- c. Mr. Hamilton stated that in talking with people about the Randolph Rossville situation that very few people know about the existence of Rossville nor do they

know the story of the Randolph Slaves, which he stated is disappointing as well as disturbing to him. He mentioned that he thought about that in relationship to the National Proficiency scores in history. Mr. Hamilton was wondering if there is anything we could do on a local level to set our young adults on the pathway of appreciation, and help out in some degree with the proficiency with history at our local level. Mr. Hamilton read a proposal that could be promoted as a joint initiative supported by both Mainstreet Piqua and the Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce with ties to the City of Piqua, Piqua City Schools, Positively Promoting Piqua and many other civic organizations. Larry read the proposal to the Committee, which had a direct correlation with the City of Piqua's bike path, (the placing of more local historical markers) which would encourage awareness of our local history for both our youth and adults alike. Discussion followed as to where would the money come from to purchase additional markers? Would the sponsorship between the Chamber of Commerce and Mainstreet Piqua for this project help with funding? Fred stated the markers currently in place were donated through a private funding source and the cost of those was roughly \$20,000. Mr. Hartley thought businesses might want to sponsor their own historical story plaque. Questions were posed as to whether the City or the other entities could write a grant for this purpose.

Terry Wright asked Larry Hamilton if he had talked to the Piqua Historical Site about the walking tours that have been successful in certain areas? Terry said it might be cost effective to have a brochure about a certain section of town and do a walking tour there and worry about the plaques later on. He said you could have stations you go to with the guide and then think about doing the plaques at a later date. Larry agreed this would be a good idea.

Mrs. Cuff stated there is still much history in our downtown area with the Thoma and the Benkert families operating a business in Piqua for many years. Terry agreed and further stated the Mill is very much a historical part of the as well. Larry mentioned the Miami County Historical Society might want to get involved in the project.

Fred stated one of the things we should do is to see what plaques have been completed from the project that Dan French began and continue with those that need or should be completed. ~~Mr. Hartley~~ Mr. Enderle stated he spoke with Dan French and asked him how many signs he donated, to which he stated twenty and he said all of his were all completed. The 20 plaques are all placed along the bike path.

It was mentioned it might be nice to have a map that could be provided to citizens as to the location of the markers.

Larry mentioned one of the things that came from the PPP meetings was the assets of Piqua and he further stated at the beginning stage of building the bike

path, it was not well received in the community; however, today it is mentioned as one of the Piqua's most valuable assets. Not only is it received well in Piqua, but also many people from outside our community love to come to our City to enjoy the path, state Larry.

Terry Wright mentioned the Aviation Hall of Fame out of Dayton, Ohio and how they denoted the different sites in our area that the Wright Brothers were associated with. At one point a blue and white sign was placed at Hartzell's location on Washington Avenue, but is no longer there. The idea was to take a driving tour from Dayton north and south and go to all the points of interest that the Wright Brothers had some type of interest in. Dayton was a big promoter for this project. Terry further mentioned with the Randolph Slaves and the Miami Erie Canal, those are two subjects to approach due to the canal, which would make for an interesting tour. Larry felt this was a good idea, for not only our area, but also the region as a whole. Larry mentioned it would be nice to have an interactive type of plaque where you could push the button and listen to the history at the site.

The Committee recommended further discussion of the idea at the August Meeting.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Terry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Enderle seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Minutes recorded by Chairman Terry Wright

Transcribed by D. Stein, Executive Assistant