

Committee on Community Diversity

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

5:00 P.M.

Municipal Government Complex – Administrative Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Committee Members Present: Vice-Chairman Larry Hamilton, Gary Huff, Helen Cuff, Roger Hartley and Gordon Wise.

Excused: Terry Wright and Judy Terry

Vice Chairman Larry Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Vice Chairman Larry Hamilton presented the October 11, 2011 minutes for approval. On a motion from Gordon Wise, seconded by Helen Cuff, the minutes of the October 11, 2011 Community Diversity Committee were approved. Gary Huff abstained due to not being present at the October 11, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

3. New Business

City Manager Gary Huff stated that he has been reviewing the policies and according to city policy the naming of facilities should be presented to the Community Diversity Committee for review and advice. Gary reported a new picnic shelter is being built at Upper Mote Park and a name has been identified for the shelter, but he felt that we got a bit ahead of ourselves and he wanted to bring this item before the Community Diversity Committee for their review and comment. Gary then presented Chris Schmiesing, City Planner, for further discussion on the naming of the facility.

Chris stated he wanted to speak to the Committee to make sure he is proceeding in the right fashion. He stated he has been engaged in conversation with the Southview Neighborhood Association earlier this spring and at that time they expressed an interest in building a shelter at Mote Park. The SVNA has been fortunate to receive materials and donations for this project. The project began in October this year with the design process taking place prior by reviewing the existing shelters in the community and tried to capture all the characteristics of those shelters in place. From there they came up with a design for the shelter and reviewed with the Association.

They identified a feature that had not been included in previous shelters and that being an identification panel so that citizens could identify the shelter. Chris reported he met with the SVNA in regards to the naming convention of the shelter and it was mutually decided to propose the name of the shelter as Upper Mote Shelter which came by way of dialogue within the Association. Chris further stated as he moved forward with the shelter project, and went before the Park Board, the Planning Commission and City Commission to share the good news and how the project came about, it came to their attention that if they were going to put a name on the shelter, there is a process and policy that needs to happen and that being that it be presented to the Community Diversity Committee first. Chris stated he read through the policy and its detail in regards to what the Committee requires. Chris reported the shelter size is a 12 x 24 structure and is east of the existing Community Center. The thought process for naming the shelter Upper Mote Shelter was that of being named after Raymond Mote who was a long-time track and baseball coach for the City of Piqua as well as the Director of the Piqua playground program. The reasoning behind naming the shelter Upper Mote is because the park name is Mote Park and the shelter is atop the hill at Mote Park thus being called Upper Mote Park for many years. The thought was to keep the name of the shelter clear and concise, thus, Upper Mote Shelter. Chris passed out a drawing of the shelter to the members for review and discussed work yet to be completed. A number of local businesses were extremely generous through their donations such as Piqua Concrete providing all the concrete, Piqua Lumber provided all the wood, Classic Metal Roofing Systems provided roofing materials, Casto Landscaping provided sod, bushes and landscaping material and Quint Custom signs provided the identification panel. Chris stated the Planning Commission and Park Board are in support of the project, but he stated he wanted to make sure this project was done right and that is why he is discussing this today. Also, Chris stated there were many citizens involved with the construction of this project as well. Larry stated it seems as though everything you want from a joint cooperative effort on the part of the City, Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Association is taking place. Larry asked if PPP was involved in this as well. Chris stated that PPP was involved in the process. Larry further stated this was a good community activity and he wished it would have been done in the manner that was prescribed by the Committee on Community Diversity. Larry asked if this would be brought before the City Commission before the adoption of the name. Gary stated that it is to be reviewed by this Committee first, thus giving him advice, and the neighborhood that may be affected will then have an opportunity to give input. The final approval will then be presented to Piqua City Commission. Larry stated he envisioned a “grassroots” type of initiative in terms of being involved in the process and he further stated it seems as though this is what we have in the way of the Southview Neighborhood Association. Gary said that even though the Piqua City

Commission would make an announcement of the new name for the shelter, they should still make available an opportunity for people to have some input with the process. Gary stated after the name suggestions are made, it may still go back to the Park Board.

Roger Hartley stated he did not have a problem with the name of the shelter and said that he sees an opportunity with the other shelters that have yet to be named. Gary stated that any future recommended names for shelters would follow this same process.

Chris stated it was an oversight in not bringing the issue before the Community Diversity Committee when the project began. Helen asked if the Neighborhood Association chose the name for the shelter. Chris stated the Neighborhood Association was engaged in the conversation and endorsed the name. Jim Vetter, on behalf of the Neighborhood Association, sent a letter to Chris endorsing the name of Upper Mote Shelter. Larry asked where the name of the shelter originated from to which Chris replied the Neighborhood Association chose to endorse Upper Mote Shelter. Larry asked if all organizations such as PPP or Point embraced the naming of the shelter. Chris said Southview Neighborhood was the driver for the project and they as a group came to the decision for building the shelter. Larry stated he did not have any personal objections, but questioned if the Commission would give several readings on the subject. Gary stated it would go before the Commission with the recommendation of the name, but Commission would have the final say for the naming. Also, Gary stated if there were other names for recommendation they would bring those before the Commission as well. Chris stated the name recommendation would first be brought before the Planning Commission and if they approve it will then be brought before Piqua City Commission.

Larry stated he understood how a mistake could be made with this issue not being presented to the Community Diversity Committee at the beginning of the process.

Roger Hartley made a motion to accept the name of Upper Mote Shelter for the structure. Helen Cuff seconded the motion. Motion carried. No objections.

Larry Hamilton wanted to discuss the conversation that he had with Chris Schmiesing and requested reviewing Resolution No. R-110-07 (A Resolution recognizing Diversity in the City of Piqua) referring to the matter of the Bond Levy for Piqua City Schools. Larry stated he understood the City had made an agreement/stipulation that if the levy passed, for the sale of \$1.00, the City of Piqua would sell the former hospital to the Piqua Board of Education. Larry stated the process calls for the

Community Diversity Committee to be involved in that discussion about the sale of that property before the property is sold. Larry reviewed Section 1 – C / Resolution No. R-110-07, which states that in the sale of Municipal Properties with facilities naming possibilities, the purchaser shall be informed of city policy in naming alternatives as they relate to the recognition of diversity in the community. Gordon stated this came from the original Ad Hoc Community Diversity Committee and asked if this provision carried into the Community Diversity Committee constitution by-laws. Larry stated it did. Gary stated that this Committee would have the right to make some recommendation and would then be passed on to the School District and then hopefully the School District would make the choice rather to accept or not. Larry stated there was an obligation/process starting with the Community Diversity Committee and then the proposals would then passed on to City Commission and then the City Commission would make the School District aware of the recommendation to which Gary stated he would be in agreement with that, but the School Board would then make that final decision.

Gary stated he would make certain the Committee members would get a copy of R-110-07. Gary asked Larry what the ***RIGHT Concept*** was and Larry stated it stood for Recognizing Individual Greatness Historical Testament. The mission statement is as follows:

RIGHT promotes the development of community partnerships in naming public properties that is more reflective of diversity. Honoring and memorializing the service of people historically excluded from ownership identity should merit greater inclusion in the process of naming public property.

Gary asked if the Community Diversity Committee adopted the ***RIGHT Concept***, to which Committee members replied it was not adopted by this Committee. Larry stated when we had the consolidated list of ideas, one thing that was discussed was what names had been proposed. Gordon asked if there was a list of names. Larry stated the Ad Hoc Committee prepared a list of potential names for facilities. Helen Cuff said that she had looked at the list of names just today, so she knows there is a list.

Larry said this concept would insure there would be opportunity for conversation when naming a facility, due to a number of worthy individuals that may in the past not have been considered “worthy” to have a facility named after them.

4. Old Business

- a. Update from Larry Hamilton on meeting between Jim Oda and the Piqua Historical Society and the Committee on Community Diversity

Larry reported the meeting was held on November 1, 2011, however, due to a scheduling conflict he was unable to attend.

5. Adjournment

Helen Cuff called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hartley seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 5: 50 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011beginning at 5:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Municipal Government Complex located at 201 W. Water Street.

Minutes recorded by Vice-Chair Larry Hamilton

Transcribed by D. Stein, Executive Assistant