

Committee on Community Diversity

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

5:00 PM

Administrative Conference Room

Municipal Government Center

1. Call Meeting to Order

Terry Wright, Chairman for the Committee called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M. Fred Enderle noted that Nicole K. Burton was unable to attend the meeting. Wright asked if anyone wanted to take minutes for the meeting. No one volunteered and Mr. Wright took the minutes for the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes from the August 26, 2008 Committee on Community Diversity meeting were reviewed. Upon motion made by Commissioner Vogt and seconded by Larry Hamilton, the minutes dated August 26, 2008 were unanimously approved and passed.

3. Deputy Assistant City Manager Andy Burner Provides Information

Andy Burner distributed information to the committee concerning a draft for discussion purposes (dated 9/30/2008) about the policy for the naming of City facilities & streets. Mr. Burner stated that the committee should be aware of Resolution No. R-110-07 passed by the City of Piqua, which states: "This policy that has been drafted is purposely general in nature to allow flexibility to Commission at the time it may be naming a facility. It was also noted that this policy is reflective of the work to date of the City Diversity Committee and City legislation on diversity."

Burner noted that, generally, there wasn't a whole lot of information available on the topic and that most of the information he obtained was from a policy in current use by Troy, Ohio.

Andy Burner discussed the difficulties, he was made aware of through his research, concerning dual name designations for streets. Burner said that he had learned that dual names interfere with emergency services and diminishes the contributions by both individuals named for the streets. Fred Enderle concurred.

Discussion followed concerning the dual naming of streets. Larry Hamilton asked how it had been handled in other communities.

City Manager Enderle suggested that a portion of a street could be declared in memory of someone without changing the name of the street and causing confusion to emergency services.

Larry Hamilton stated that the process of implementing a dedicated memorial area or re-naming of streets was outlined in the original Ad-Hoc Committee of Community Diversity's work. Fred said that he would see that that information was included in any memorial dedication or street re-naming process and proposal, from the Community Diversity Committee, which would go before the Piqua City Commission for approval.

4. **Deputy Assistant City Manager Andy Burner Discusses McCulloch Memorial Efforts**

Andy informed the committee concerning what had been completed so far toward the naming of the McCulloch Memorial in front of the Fort Piqua Plaza. Discussion followed concerning the exact location for the naming of the area. Mr. Enderle said that he had suggested the entire area in front of the Fort Piqua Plaza including the boulevard separating High Street from Market Street, but also included the High and Market streets area. Hamilton noted that those boundaries sounded as if there were a revision to the idea of ownership identity to the square.

Fred stated that perhaps a federal historical landmark dedication was possible and they would know that after contacting the state.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the committee members shouldn't consider diversity along with re-naming? Larry said that the street naming policy should consider, within the naming process, the naming of persons who were more specific toward meeting the criteria for the street naming process. This comment was the result of the "elected official, volunteer, or organization" indication on the sample draft for discussion purposes of the policy for the naming of City facilities & streets proposal submitted by Andy Burner during this meeting. Mr. Hamilton suggested that the word "individual" be placed in the criteria. The committee members agreed. Mr. Enderle stated that he would have the revision draft of the policy by the next meeting after adding the already completed Ad-Hoc Committee's information.

Mr. Burner discussed the dedication ceremony for Congressman McCulloch. Andy spoke of important significant historical events in Civil Rights' legislation as possible dedication dates for Congressman McCulloch's memorial dedication. Andy stated that he had been in contact with the McCulloch family members and those who had worked with Congressman McCulloch as possible speakers for the dedication. Andy asked that members from the Committee on Community

Diversity serve on a larger McCulloch Memorial Dedication Committee. Hamilton volunteered. Gordon Wise and his wife would discuss the matter and possibly be agreeable to serving on that committee.

Mr. Burner asked Terry Wright to contact Jim Oda, Director of Piqua's Flesh Public Library, to see if he would serve on that special memorial committee. Terry agreed to contact Mr. Oda for that purpose.

5. **Defining Diversity Committee's Definition**

Mr. Enderle said that the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Diversity Committee had defined diversity to agree with the definition of the statement. That statement should be placed into the charge statement and placed within the mission statement for the commissioner's approval.

Mr. Wise suggested the diversity of thought be added to the mission statement. Hamilton said that by adding “thinking and knowing” to the definition, he was worried that trivialities were being included which would make the statement too broad. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wise made a motion to add “of thinking and of knowing” to the meaning of diversity statement. That sentence then reads: “Understanding that diversity includes not only ways of being, but also ways of thinking and of knowing.” Vogt second the motion. Motion carried. The roll call vote was as follows: Yea: Wise, Vogt, Enderle, Wright, and Helen Cuff; Nay: Hamilton; Absent: Burton.

The full terminology for the meaning of diversity as understood by the Committee on Community Diversity now reads: ***“The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences. Practicing mutual respect for qualities and experiences that are different from our own. Understanding that diversity includes not only ways of being, but also ways of thinking and of knowing. Recognizing that personal, cultural and institutionalized discrimination creates and sustains privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others. Building alliances across differences so that we can work together to eradicate all forms of discrimination.”***

The Committee on Community Diversity then, upon motion made by Mr. Wise to accept the amended form of terminology as the defined meaning of diversity as understood by the Committee on Community Diversity. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Vogt. Roll Call vote was as follows: Yea: Wise, Vogt, Cuff, Enderle and Wright; Nay: Hamilton; Absent: Burton.

6. **Update on Contact for Two Additional Potential Members if Approved by City Commissioners**

Mr. Hamilton said that he had contacted Leah Freed, a Piqua teacher, who was interested in serving on the Committee on Community Diversity. Mr. Enderle said to invite Freed to the next Community Diversity meeting.

Mr. Wright said that he had tried to contact Dr. Mansur Zarraby, but he was out of town. (Since the Sept. 30, 2008 meeting Wright spoke with Dr. Zarraby who is also interested in possibly serving on the Committee on Community Diversity.)

7. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting for the Committee on Community Diversity will be held on October 21, 2008 at 5 p.m. at the City Administrative Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the Piqua Municipal Government Complex.

8. **Adjourn**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Vogt and seconded by Mr. Hamilton the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Wright, Chairman