



# CITY OF OAK PARK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Ethnic Advisory Commission**

#### City Council

Mayor

Marian McClellan

Mayor Pro Tem

Carolyn Burns

Council Members

Solomon Radner

Kenneth Rich

Kiesha Speech

City Manager

Erik Tungate

#### Ethnic Advisory Commission

Chairperson

Vacant

Vice-Chair

Carl Allwood

Secretary

Carla Wallace

Commissioners

Tina Baker ..... Juanita Bell

Mattie Boykin ..... Leona Burns

Christopher Davis ..... Rosetta Kincaid

Reatha Richmond ..... Avi Snider

Sudha Chandra Sekhar ..... Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw

Anita Warner .....

Staff Liaison

Vicky Brooks, Human Resources Director

## Oak Park Ethnic Advisory Commission

7:00 PM Thursday, June 9, 2016

Oak Park Community Center

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm and roll call was completed.

**PRESENT:** Tina Baker, Abraham Snider, Carla Wallace

Other Attendees:

Mayor Marian McClellan, Ex-officio Member

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Burns, Ex-officio Member (7:10 departure)

Staff Liaison Vicky Brooks

**ABSENT:** Carl Allwood, Juanita Bell, Mattie Boylin, Leona Burns, Christopher Davis, Rosetta Kincaid, Reatha Richmond, Sudha Chandra Sekhar, Lonnie Tabb Upshaw

Ex-officio Members:

Councilmember Kiesha Speech

Councilmember Solomon Radner

Councilmember Kenneth Rich

Due to a lack of a quorum no official business could be conducted.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Anita Warner sent an email to the Commission regarding grants for sponsorship of a writing contest as follows:

*Good morning Fellow Commissioners,*

*One topic for discussion at our May Meeting was getting possible grants to support our essay writing contest. Commissioner Bell mentioned finding grants for field trips to our museums to build on rich heritages.*

*Well, I did some research on this topic and found a winner. Target awards field trip grants up to \$700 dollars throughout our local school communities. Their application dates are Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and Oct 1<sup>st</sup> noon CST, so we still have time to apply! These are awarded for field trips to museums and cultural institutions across the country.*

*I did a search of Ferndale, Detroit and Southfield cities to see who were receiving the grants: Ferndale received 1, Southfield received 1, Detroit received 11. I didn't do any further searches Michigan is too big, I just wanted to check the surrounding areas.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Independence Day Parade Participation

Discussion regarding final details on the Ethnic Advisory Commission's participation were discussed and T-shirts were distributed to those members in attendance.

### School Partnership (Student Diversity Sub-committee)

Commissioner Snider explained the program and shared ideas on implementation. He stated bringing students to the Commission would bring a fresh outlook to the group.

### Membership participation and Commission sponsored events:

Mayor McClellan encouraged the membership present to work together regardless of the lack of participation by some appointees to the Commission. She suggested those present begin working on securing vendors for Summerfest. Commissioner Snider was given Chef Kari, Kravings, Prime Ten and Jerusalem Pizza to contact and Commissioner Warner will contact Hungry Howie's, Grape Leaves and Tai Fai.

Mayor McClellan also suggested contacting similar commissions within other cities to gather ideas to help this Commission promote diversity in a greater way within the City of Oak Park.

Commissioner Snider stated one way to get ideas is to go into the community and ask the residents. Staff Liaison Brooks suggested reaching out to block clubs for inspiration.

Mayor McClellan suggested conducting a series of forums on various topics.

## **CALL TO COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor McClellan apprised the Commission of various upcoming events within the City including Summerfest on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6:00 pm and the newly planted sunflowers throughout the City.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm