

The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held a Meeting on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2022 beginning at 6:05 P.M.

CD PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Lipian, Oswald, Absent: Schneider

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Cerra, Davis, Absent: Schneider

Chair Stewart said Mr. Schneider notified the Clerk's office and stated that he would not be able to attend this evening's meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Williams, HR Dir Yousefi, Engineer McKillips, WWPC Superintendent Korzan, Police Chief Pelko

1. Approval of the Regular CD Meeting Minutes ~ January 31ST, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Lipian second by Mrs. Mitchell to approve the meeting minutes.

2. The matter of Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis.

Referred By: President Stewart

President Stewart said this matter was referred to him by Jeanine Donaldson. Council passed a Resolution in June 2020 which declared racism as a public health crisis. Because it was early on and we were trying to address the issue of what was happening across the country and we wanted to show our unity and be a part of that. Ms. Donaldson had a discussion with him and she wanted to expound more upon that.

Jeanine Donaldson, Executive Director of the Elyria YWCA, her she's a resident of 1515 South Lakeview Blvd., Lorain. She wants to update council. At the time Council passed the resolution in June 2020, the YWCA stepped up and said that we will help with a declaration. We didn't want this resolution to be just a document that sat on a shelf. When you say something is a public health crisis, there is a specific criteria it has to meet. As the opioid crisis is of epidemic proportions and climate control as a crisis, racism as a public health crisis is no less important. The YWCA has been in Elyria since 1913 and we have looked at things thru a racial justice lens. That is because every YWCA in the country, the mission is eliminating racism and empowering women. Organizations and businesses pay a lot of money to corporations to come up with tag lines to brand the institution. The YWCA has been alive nationwide for over 150 years and has been about women's issues. But for a women's organization to recognize elimination of racism and putting that in the tag line before 'empowering women' is a powerful statement.

For the past 14 months there has been a committee of key leaders from this community that have been engaged the work of creating a report. [A summary of that report was passed out to all of the committee and council members - additional copies may be requested]. The full report is still in the draft stages. They began with a 'Task-force' of about 12 individuals and they created sub-committees and those sub-committees are listed in the table of contents which is at the beginning of the summary that was passed out. Most of the key leaders are funders. This issue, like many other issues is going to take funding. They wanted to begin with the report which will be a blueprint for the work they do moving forward. They are on schedule on where they want to be moving forward. They are engaging The Community Solutions which is a non-profit out of Cleveland, they were commissioned by the Nord Family Foundation to

do a report on Social Justice audit and much of there info was used in this document. We will ask them to review the document once it's completely finished so they can be sure they are meeting the standards.

The YWCA is re-branding themselves because a lot of folks don't recognize the racial justice work that the YWCA has done for over 100 years. They are known by the community anti-hate task force. They've done many conferences, partnered with Rotary District 6600 to have a peace conference. They will continue doing those things and they want people to know why they're doing those things. With the help of local foundations they are creating the racial equity center and it's going to be held at the Elyria YWCA. They want to reach out to those organizations to help them with their best practices. One of the things would be, that language is not exclusionary, for the description of an open job notice. Those are the kind of things. There will be turn key things that your HR Dept calls and they can send a description of the correct kind of language. The social determinants which created this racism as a public health crisis were the criminal justice, community policing, economic justice and workforce development, education, health care, equity and justice, housing, community history and there is a section for each one of those in this report and there are recommendations on each topic.

There is a section called community history and it's about African-American History. One of the important things that the research that has been done is th change the narrative, to change the negative narrative that exists about communities of color, specifically African-Americans. We can go back 400 years, we know the stereotypes, we know the language, we know the disparities, but at some point, we have to say enough is enough and we have to change the narrative. Changing the narrative really means giving people the opportunity to see themselves as lawyers, as judges, as council people, as car salesman, as bankers. If you look at the data, it says over and over again that people of color here in Lorain County are at a disadvantage.

They are excited because Oberlin College and the Bonner Center and LCCC is going to be working on doing a history of African-Americans in Lorain County. African-Americans have been here in Elyria since 1817, they came here with Mr. Ely, Mr. Beebe, Ms. Snow and a guy named Ned who was the first African-American.

Ms. Donaldson said the reason she is standing before here and speaking in a polished manner is because she has always had that self-confidence. She's always been the color she is, been a modest income level but they gave her was a pride in herself and pride in her history as a black person. There have been numerous accomplishments in the African-American community as early as 1840 - 1850.

Sarah Louise Howard was one of 12 founding members of the Lorain County Historical Society. The other 11 members were white women and they were the who's who of Elyria. Ms. Howard's lived on the property where the CT is today and her husband was a barber and barbers were some of the most wealthy people in communities of color.

The City of Elyria has already declared Racism as a Public Health Crisis, the YWCA stands ready to help the City live up to that pledge.

Chair Callahan thanked Ms. Donaldson and said this was an education and having an open mind is probably the first step in recognizing the overall problem.

Mrs. Mitchell thanked Ms. Donaldson and she said the YWCA has been remodeled and it looks fantastic. She suggested that Ms. Donaldson get with the

Chronicle to tell the story of the history of the YWCA.

Mr. Lipian thanked Ms. Donaldson as well. He said he's done research dwelling and some introspection and on the topic of racism in general.

It's important to remember that racism extends beyond our borders. He's glad as a council that we can take an important movement in reversing that terrible direction. An expert from a writer and DEI author, Chloe Valadray who wrote the Theory of Enchantment based on 3 principles; treat people like human beings, not political abstractions, criticize to uplift and empower, never to tear down and destroy and root everything you do in agape love and compassion.

Mrs. Davis thanked Ms. Donaldson and appreciates keeping abreast of what's going on with this issue.

President Stewart said that we take this information that Ms. Donaldson provided and read it over and then and for Ms. Donaldson to be in touch with the Clerk's office when you want to bring this back as it develops. Possibly with another presentation when other council members can be here as well.

Ms. Donaldson came back and was hopeful that they could have some turnkey things to help council or help businesses that want to practice what they say. And looking at how the City spends their dollars in a more equitable manner and that is what should continue, whether it's dollars in Community Development or wherever, looking at where you spend those dollars, what effect does it have on those communities. We're doing that kind of work already, but we want to have an impact. The Health has rec'd \$600,000 to work on equity, and we have to make sure that they don't do things the old way, that they're looking at it through a racial justice lens. We have a MARS Board that is doing things with restorative practices, creating that new center for the opioid addiction. She's had conversations with the CEO of the MARS Board and how they're going to start looking at how they're going to use those dollars. And to be sure we don't fall into the same patterns and practices as before.

3. The matter of a Liquor License request to transfer from The Pub to Jamesue, LLC, located at 8741 West Ridge Road, Elyria (Permit Class D5~liquor, beer, wine on premises consumption or off premises in sealed containers).

Referred By: Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

[No issues reported by EPD, No issues reported by Safety Dir Brubaker and No Zoning issues]

Mrs. Mitchell asked about the off premises consumption, she wasn't aware that and asked for clarification on what that means. Are they able to buy a drink and take it with them as long as it's sealed?

Chief Pelko said he thinks alcohol can be purchased at the bar and then take it home as long as it's sealed.

Mrs. Mitchell wasn't aware of bars doing this.

Chief Pelko said he would make a phone call to find out the answer to this.

Dir Brubaker said the local brewery does that, they brew the beer and sell it.

Mrs. Mitchell said, she understands they can buy cans and take but can the take drinks in cups as well?

Dir Brubaker said yes, they can purchase a drink as carry-out.

Chair Callahan read the explanation of D5; D5 = liquor, beer, wine on premises

consumption or off premises in original sealed containers until 2:30 a.m.).

Mrs. Mitchell made a motion that the City does not request a hearing, that motion was seconded by Mr. Lipian.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Lipian moved and Mrs. Mitchell seconded to adjourn the Community Development portion the this evening's meetings at 6:36 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

The evening's meetings continued with The Finance Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Colleen Rosado,
Council Clerk Secretary*

CMR/