



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – April 1, 2025

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Interim Chair Michael Wanbaugh.

Members present: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartentruber

City Council Liaison present: Phil Lederach

Guests: Mayor Gina Leichty, Community Development Block Grant Administrator Theresa Cummings

Interim Chair Wanbaugh welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the presence of newly appointed and continuing members of the Commission, as well as guests from City government.

2. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes proposed to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Oaths of Office

Mayor Gina Leichty administered the oaths of office for two new CRC members:

- Angie Wentz, appointed to complete the term of Cathy Cripe (through December 31, 2026)
- Tim Swartentruber, appointed to complete the term of Kyle Richardson (through December 31, 2025)

4. Community Partnership/Sponsorship Presentations

Interim Chair Wanbaugh introduced this portion of the meeting by highlighting the importance of transparency and community collaboration in the CRC's funding processes.

Mayor Gina Leichty offered opening remarks recognizing the value of community partnerships.

Nine applicants presented proposals for 2025 funding consideration:

- Nick Keiffer – Goshen Chamber of Commerce
- Veronica Berkey, Amanda Rose, and Michelle Horning – Downtown Goshen, Inc.
- Susan Visser – Goshen Theater
- Bethany Hartley – South Bend–Elkhart Regional Partnership
- John Misher – Downtown Sculpture Project
- Megan Hessel – River Bend Film Festival
- Trevor Daugherty – Michiana Pottery Tour
- Chris Stager – Economic Development Corp. of Elkhart County
- Adrienne Nesbitt – Arts on the Millrace

Note: Scott Lehman, scheduled to present on behalf of Float Fest 2025, has rescheduled and will present at the May 6 CRC meeting.

Interim Chair Wanbaugh thanked each presenter following their remarks and acknowledged the energy and creativity evident in the proposed initiatives.



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5. Financial Report

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver presented the CRC financial report through March 31, 2025. As of that date, \$28,000 had been expended from the Commission's \$206,050 annual budget, leaving approximately 86% of funds remaining. Full financials are on record and will guide evaluation of future funding decisions.

6. International Women's Day Luncheon Report

Interim Chair Wanbaugh reported on the 2025 International Women's Day Luncheon held March 7 at Bread & Chocolate.

Themed *Breaking Barriers*, the event featured four women from various professional fields. Seventy tickets were sold, generating over \$3,600 in net revenue. Total event expenses exceeded \$9,100. The Commission expressed appreciation to community sponsors and contributors for their support of the event.

7. Public Hearing – CDBG 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan & 2025 Action Plan

A public hearing was held as part of the City's required citizen participation process for the proposed 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

CDBG Administrator Theresa Cummings provided an overview of the plan, including its availability for public comment from March 18 to April 16, 2025. She outlined priority areas identified in the plan, including the expansion of housing opportunities, improved access to essential services, and neighborhood revitalization.

Proposed 2025 activities include public service grants, housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy conservation for multi-family housing, and general administration. The plan is based on an estimated total CDBG budget of \$339,750, pending final allocation from HUD.

Attendees were invited to offer public comment. No comments were made, and the public hearing was formally closed.

8. Looking Ahead

Interim Chair Wanbaugh noted that the Commission will continue its review of funding requests and begin early planning for summer and fall programming. Members were encouraged to monitor email communications for updates.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Members of the public were invited to speak. No comments were offered.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion carried.



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GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – March 4, 2025

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Michael Wanbaugh at 4:00 p.m.

CRC members present: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey

City Council Liaison: Phil Lederach

Guests: Mayor Gina Leichty, Communications Manager Amanda Guzman, Director of Administrative Affairs and Interim CRC Director Michael Wanbaugh, and Community Development Block Grant Administrator Theresa Cummings

Prospective CRC members Angie Wentz, Marylyn Torres, Lisa Lederach, and Alison Garcia Romero were present. Each was invited to introduce themselves and briefly share their interest in joining the Commission. The CRC expressed its appreciation for their desire to serve. Interim Chair Wanbaugh noted that appointments were expected to be finalized ahead of the April 1 meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2025

The minutes from the February 4, 2025, meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Report

Commission members were provided an opportunity to review the CRC's current budget. No formal report was presented.

5. International Women's Day Luncheon Update

Communications Manager Amanda Guzman provided an update on the 2025 International Women's Day Luncheon, held March 7 at Bread & Chocolate.

This year's event, themed *Breaking Barriers*, featured four PechaKucha-style presentations by women excelling in underrepresented fields: Julia Chairez (healthcare), Amy Sink (finance), Tara Powell (public safety), and Hannah Estes (fire service).

Seventy tickets were sold, with total gross sales of \$4,043 and net revenue of \$3,687. Sponsorships at multiple levels provided additional financial support. Total confirmed expenses amounted to \$9,125. The event was described as meaningful, well-attended, and responsibly managed.

6. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report

Theresa Cummings, CDBG Administrator, gave an overview of the City's CDBG program, which supports housing, neighborhood revitalization, and economic opportunity for low- to moderate-income residents.



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The Commission thanked Theresa for her continued work administering this federally funded program.

7. Community Partnership and Sponsorship Presentations

Mayor Gina Leichty offered opening remarks regarding the importance of civic partnerships and the CRC's role in evaluating funding applications.

The following community organizations presented requests for 2025 CRC partnership or sponsorship funding:

- Wayne Stubbs and Karen Braden – Elkhart County Symphony
- Danae Wirth – Goshen Historical Society
- Pam Kennedy – North Central Indiana Housing (Warsaw Housing Authority)
- Gregg Lanzen – First In Chaplain Crisis Response Team
- Laura Johnson – Black Squirrel Golf Club
- Chuck Hamilton – Air Supremacy Over Goshen (sponsorship request)
- Henrique Eichenberger – Goshen City FC (sponsorship request)
- Ashley Bowen – Lacasa of Goshen

Following the presentations, Interim Chair Wanbaugh thanked each presenter and acknowledged their contributions to the Goshen community.

8. Looking Ahead

Commission members and guests were invited to share any items to consider in upcoming meetings. General discussion followed.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Members of the public were invited to speak. No public comments were offered.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.