



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
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www.goshenindiana.org/crc

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2025

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers

1. Call to order and welcome

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

Members present: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber, John Dolezal

City Council liaison present: Phil Lederach

Guests: Bodie Stegelmann (City Attorney), Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs), Amanda Guzman (Communications Manager), Theresa Cummings (CDBG Administrator)
Mayor Gina Leichty was not in attendance.

2. Approval of the agenda

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

3. Oath of office

John Dolezal, appointed by the mayor to complete the term of former commissioner Casey Kasper (through Dec. 31, 2027), was formally sworn in by City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the March 4 and April 1, 2025, meetings were reviewed. A motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Lori Copsey and seconded by John Dolezal. Motion carried.

5. Adoption of public policy resolutions

The commission unanimously approved two formal resolutions:

- **Resolution 2025-01** affirms the CRC's commitment to comply with Indiana Open Door Law by establishing procedures for providing public notice of meetings. The resolution outlines how notice will be given to news media and individuals who request updates.
- **Resolution 2025-02** authorizes members of the CRC to participate in meetings by electronic means of communication in accordance with Indiana Code. The resolution sets expectations for remote participation and quorum requirements.

Motions to adopt each resolution were made by Lori Copsey and seconded by Tim Swartzentruber. Both motions carried unanimously.



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6. CDBG and partnership/sponsorship presentations

Five organizations presented proposals for Community Development Block Grant or partnership support:

- **Boys and Girls Club** – Lana Leftwich discussed program needs supported by CDBG funding.
- **Elkhart County Clubhouse** – Erich Miller described mental health services and invited members to attend daily lunches at noon.
- **Maple City Health Care Center** – Mike Genau presented on access to care and requested continued CDBG support.
- **First Light Mission** – Mindy Morehead requested funding for both CDBG and partnership categories and invited members to a monthly open house held 7–8 a.m. on the third Thursday.
- **Float Fest** – Scott Lehman shared details of the upcoming June 28 community event and requested CRC sponsorship support.

A motion to approve sponsorship for Float Fest was made by Lori Copsey and seconded by John Dolezal. Motion carried.

7. Presentation – How Goshen got its name

Local historian Val Collins presented alongside Carol and Art Razo of Crane Township, Ohio. Their research traced Oliver Crane's migration from Goshen, New York, to Ohio and then to Goshen, Indiana, connecting the shared naming history across three states. The group shared documentation of Crane's brief journey to California during the Gold Rush and his return to Goshen by 1850. Crane Township will celebrate its bicentennial in August 2025.

8. Financial report

The commission reviewed financial activity through April 30, 2025. As of that date, \$39,730.62 had been spent from the CRC's \$206,050 annual budget, leaving roughly 80.7% remaining.

9. Community partnership and sponsorship award update

Director Wanbaugh noted that follow-ups with previous applicants were in process and award notifications would continue in the coming weeks.

10. Looking ahead

Commissioners discussed staffing a CRC outreach table at the June First Fridays event. Angie Wentz and Amanda Guzman will coordinate logistics. The next CRC meeting will be held as a neighborhood walkabout on Goshen's Northside, scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, at 4 p.m. Members will meet at Chamberlain Elementary School and were advised to wear walking shoes and prepare for a two-mile route.

11. Privilege of the floor

Ida Short, a commercial tenant, addressed the commission regarding rental conditions at her business location. She requested that the CRC consider adopting a policy in support of tenants. Staff noted that Building Commissioner Grise had reviewed her complaint. While the issue (a visible door gap) did not meet code violation thresholds, the concern was acknowledged and appreciated.



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12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.