



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – June 3, 2025

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Location: Northside Neighborhood Walkabout

1. Call to order and welcome

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

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

City staff and support present: Mayor Gina Leichty; Michael Wanbaugh, Director of Administrative Affairs / Interim CRC Director; Amanda Guzman, Communications Manager; Theresa Cummings, CDBG Administrator; Don Shuler, city attorney; Myron Grise, building inspector; Travis Eash, code enforcement; Tanya Heyde, director of Parks & Recreation; Dustin Sailor, director of Public Works; Jamey Bontrager-Singer, city civil engineer; and Jim Ballard and Andrew Priem, Mobile Integrated Health coordinators.

Presenters and community partners present: Todd Williams, principal, Chamberlain Elementary; Marlin Schwartz, Artisan Builders Group; Alita Yoder, Maple City Health Care Center; Jeremy Stutsman, president and CEO Lacasa Inc.; and Danielle Panetta; community outreach director, Lacasa Inc.

Wanbaugh welcomed attendees and introduced the walkabout format for the commission's June meeting. He encouraged informal conversation during the walking tour and invited community feedback throughout the walk. Mayor Leichty spoke about the city's ongoing efforts to support Northside neighborhoods and praised the partnerships that have made visible progress possible.

2. Northside neighborhood walkabout

The commission hosted its meeting as a two-mile walking tour of Goshen's Northside neighborhood. Eight stops featured presentations by local leaders, city staff and nonprofit partners on efforts to improve housing, infrastructure, public health and community engagement.

- **Stop 1 – Chamberlain Elementary School**

Principal Todd Williams spoke about the school's role as a trusted community anchor, supporting students and families with trauma-informed teaching, food access programs and consistent outreach efforts that extend beyond the classroom.

- **Stop 2 – Artisan Builders Group**

President Marlin Schwartz guided attendees through a recently rehabilitated home on Middlebury Street, sharing how his company works with the city to transform blighted structures into safe, affordable, owner-occupied housing.

- **Stop 3 – Maple City Health Care Center**

Director of Operations Alita Yoder addressed the neighborhood's healthcare challenges and how Maple City's neighborhood-based model builds trust through prevention-focused, culturally sensitive care tailored to residents' needs.



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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

- **Stop 4 – Fifth Street corridor**

City staff described the receivership and blight remediation program, which allows the city to stabilize abandoned or unsafe properties. Jeremy Stutsman, CEO of Lacasa Inc., shared details of more than \$3 million in neighborhood investment since 2022, resulting in new homes, rehabilitated properties and long-term affordability.

- **Stop 5 – Walnut Park**

Parks Superintendent Tanya Heyde provided updates on recent park improvements, including new play structures and site enhancements. She highlighted Walnut Park's importance as a safe, accessible green space in the heart of the neighborhood.

- **Stop 6 – Public works and redevelopment**

Public Works Director Dustin Sailor, City Engineer Jamey Bontrager-Singer and Redevelopment Director Becky Hutsell reviewed ongoing infrastructure projects. These include road reconstruction, water and sewer upgrades, sidewalk connectivity and future planning efforts to support sustainable redevelopment.

- **Stop 7 – Mill Street Park**

Heyde and Goshen Rotary representative Brett Weddell highlighted Mill Street Park as a successful public-private collaboration. The park features a playground, community gardens, a walking path and public art. Rotary provided funding and volunteers for major elements of the project.

- **Stop 8 – Public health and safety**

Jim Ballard and Andrew Priem of the Mobile Integrated Health team presented on a new initiative pairing emergency responders with community-based care teams. Their pilot project helps high-need residents access services while reducing non-emergency 911 calls.

3. Notes and observations

No formal motions or votes were taken during the meeting. Members expressed appreciation for the firsthand look at neighborhood progress and emphasized the value of direct engagement. Several members suggested similar walkabouts in other neighborhoods in the coming year.