



**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 – July 1, 2025

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers, 111 E. Jefferson St.

1. Call to Order

Chair Michael Wanbaugh called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. He welcomed attendees, acknowledged the date, and thanked participants for their continued commitment to the work of the Commission.

Roll Call:

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

Member absent: Tim Swartzentruber

Guests: Phil Lederach (City Council Liaison), Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs/Interim Community Relations Director), Amanda Guzman (Communications Manager), Theresa Cummings (CDBG Administrator), and Daniela Panetta (Lacasa)

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented with no changes or additions.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Outcome: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 6 CRC meeting and the June 3 Northside neighborhood walkabout were included in the meeting packet.

Discussion: Members confirmed they had reviewed the minutes and had no corrections or edits.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve both sets of minutes.

Outcome: Motion passed

4. Northside Neighborhood Walkabout Recap

Michael Wanbaugh facilitated a recap of the June 3 Northside neighborhood walkabout.

Highlights:

- Strong turnout and effective pacing
- Valuable feedback received at each station stop
- High level of engagement from city staff and community members
- Provided clear opportunities for listening and learning directly from residents



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Next Steps:

Commission members shared reflections and suggestions for future walkabouts. A new neighborhood for the August event will be selected at a future meeting.

5. Lacasa Report

Daniela Panetta, Director of Community Building & Engagement, provided updates on Lacasa's work within Goshen neighborhoods.

Topics included:

- Strategies for improving outreach and resident participation
- Current programming focused on neighborhood development
- Partnership opportunities with CRC to support community-led initiatives
- A new collaboration between Lacasa, the City of Goshen, and residents of the Chamberlain Neighborhood to potentially establish a community garden near Walnut Park

6. Improving Neighborhood Outreach

Commissioners discussed how to build and sustain communication with neighborhood associations.

Recommendations:

Each CRC member will reach out to neighborhood leaders in their area. If no active association exists, members are encouraged to identify potential community contacts willing to serve as champions for future organizing.

7. CRC Financial Report

A brief financial overview was presented, showing current account status and noting available funds for ongoing programming and grants. No action was required.

8. Neighborhood Block Party Mini-Grant Review

The Commission reviewed a mini-grant request submitted by the College Farm Neighborhood.

Discussion:

The proposal met grant guidelines and aligned with the CRC's goals for neighborhood engagement.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the mini-grant for College Farm.

Outcome: Motion passed unanimously.

9. Looking Ahead

- **First Fridays (July 4):** Commissioners agreed not to host a CRC table during the July event due to the Independence Day holiday.
- **4-H Fair Parade (July 20):** The Commission discussed possible participation in the parade and brainstormed ways to increase visibility and community connection.
- **Indigenous People's Day (Oct. 13):** Initial planning began. A chairperson will be appointed at an upcoming meeting to guide coordination and outreach for the event.



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10. Privilege of the Floor

Goshen resident John Stoltzfus inquired about the status of a commemorative plaque acknowledging Goshen's past as a "Sundown Town." Commission members noted the importance of the conversation and agreed to research the matter. No other public comments or additional items were brought forward.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Guzman and Michael Wanbaugh