



**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 – Aug. 5, 2025

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025 | 4 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair **Michael Wanbaugh** called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. He welcomed commissioners and guests, and thanked members for their continued work to strengthen neighborhood connections. He noted that the agenda was revised to include additional block party mini-grant applications submitted after the packet was finalized.

Roll Call

- **Members present:** E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber, John Dolezal
- **Guests present:** Phil Lederach (City Council Liaison), Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs/Interim Community Relations Director), Amanda Guzman (Communications Manager), Theresa Cummings (CDBG Administrator)
- **Absent:** Mayor Gina Leichty, Daniela Panetta (LaCasa, Director of Community Building & Engagement)

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the amended agenda including two late-submitted mini-grant requests.

Outcome: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the **July 1, 2025** CRC meeting were reviewed. Commissioners confirmed they had read the minutes and had no edits.

Motion: To approve the July minutes.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Community Partnership Presentation – Chain Reaction Bicycle Project

Presenter: Kathleen Nofziger Yeakey, Executive Director

- Kathleen provided an overview of the Chain Reaction Bicycle Project, a Goshen nonprofit that operates a community bike shop.
- She explained the shop's role in teaching bicycle repair skills, offering affordable refurbished bicycles, and running a volunteer "work-to-own" program that allows participants to earn a bike.
- She described collaborations with **Elkhart County Jail Ministries** and **Life Cycle**, helping individuals in work-release programs and others in need of basic transportation.
- Kathleen detailed a **\$20,000 funding request** to support operations, replace tools, and expand programming.
- Commissioners asked questions about staffing, demand, and financial sustainability. Kathleen noted that reduced staff meant the shop could currently open only two days a week, lowering income and outreach.



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Discussion: Members agreed the project strongly aligned with CRC goals of equity, inclusion, and neighborhood connectivity.

Next Steps: The request will move forward for evaluation in the CRC's community partnership funding review.

5. Presentation – Community-Led Development & Engagement

Presenter: Mike Keen, Hometowne Development LLC / The Bakery Group

- Chair Wanbaugh noted that Mike Keen was unable to attend the meeting.
- His presentation on grassroots development and placemaking will be rescheduled.

6. LaCasa Report

- Daniela Panetta was not present.
- No report was provided for this meeting.

7. CRC Financial Report

Chair Wanbaugh reviewed the monthly budget summary:

- CRC expenditures through August 1 totaled **\$59,472**.
- About **71 percent of the annual budget** remained available for programs and grants.
- Expenses to date included personnel costs, insurance, office expenses, and event funding.
- Commissioners noted that events and promotion funds were still largely unspent, leaving flexibility for fall activities.

No action was required.

8. Neighborhood Block Party Mini-Grant Applications

Historic Southside Neighborhood Association – Annual Picnic (Aug. 9)

- Request: \$200 to purchase food and supplies.
- Expected turnout: 120–150 residents.
- Commissioners agreed the event promotes civic pride and neighborhood cohesion.

Motion: Approve request.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

West Goshen Neighborhood Association – Annual Block Party (Aug. 16, Bakersfield Park)

- Request: \$200 for food, prizes, and supplies.
- Expected turnout: about 200 residents.
- Commissioners noted the event's long tradition and importance in welcoming new neighbors.

Motion: Approve request.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.



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9. Looking Ahead

Chair Wanbaugh led discussion on upcoming activities:

- CRC did not host a table at the most recent **First Fridays** due to the City Colleague Picnic at Abshire Park. Commissioners agreed it was important for CRC to re-establish a presence at upcoming First Fridays to maintain visibility.
- Members acknowledged a full fall calendar of neighborhood events (block parties, ice cream socials, and potlucks) as well as **Indigenous Peoples Day on October 3** and the **Historic Southside Walkabout on October 7**.
- No formal planning decisions were made, but commissioners affirmed interest in continuing CRC's role in outreach at these events.

10. Commissioner Reports

- Commissioners shared updates on outreach to neighborhood leaders.
- Discussion highlighted the need to maintain consistent communication with neighborhoods that lack formal associations.
- Members emphasized that CRC visibility at local events builds trust and strengthens resident connections with city resources.

11. Privilege of the Floor

No public comments or additional items were brought forward.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Michael Wanbaugh (Chair)