



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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

MEMO: Minutes for Feb. 3, 2026 Community Relations Commission Meeting

February 3, 2026 at Council Chambers, 111 E. Jefferson St.

1. Call to Order

The February 3, 2026 meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order. Commissioners present: Iman Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber, John Dolezal, and Lauren Lehman.

2. Introduction of New Member

Lauren Lehman introduced herself. She recently moved to Goshen after marrying a Goshen College graduate. She works as a mental health counselor in private practice in Wausau and commutes three days per week while providing telehealth one day. She shared that she was interested in becoming involved in the Goshen community.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Oaths of Office

It was noted that oaths of office had already been administered for:

- Lauren Lehman, mayoral appointee, term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028
- Timothy Swartzentruber, mayoral appointee, term through December 31, 2028

5. Financial Report

An updated 2026 CRC budget report was presented.

It was noted:

- The 2026 budget is less complex than 2025 because employee salaries are no longer paid from the CRC budget.
- Budget lines include CRC Professional Services, CRC Events and Expenses, and CRC Education and Promotion.
- Events and community outreach will be paid from those lines.

A question was raised regarding Neighborhood Association Mini-Grants. Initially, it was stated they would be paid from the Events and Expenses line. Later in the meeting, this was corrected. Mini-grants are paid from a separate community development line, not from the CRC budget. There is a \$200 cap per grant.

A motion was made to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.



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6. New Business

2026 International Women's Day Luncheon

The primary upcoming event discussed was the 2026 International Women's Day Luncheon.

Key details discussed:

- Proposed dates near International Women's Day, which falls on Sunday, March 8.
- Proposed location: Bread & Chocolate at the Old Bag Factory.
- Proposed time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Theme for 2026: "Give to Gain."
- Four to five featured presenters are anticipated.
- The Mayor will speak at the event.

It was noted that turnout was lower the previous year due to a scheduling conflict with a Greater Elkhart Chamber luncheon.

Sponsorship structure was discussed. The goal is for the luncheon to pay for itself through sponsorships and ticket sales. Commissioners were invited to suggest potential sponsors and featured speakers.

Planning Session Scheduled

A planning meeting was scheduled for:

- Monday, February 9
- 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- City Hall conference room

There was discussion regarding whether the working session would need to be publicly advertised if a quorum was present. Clarification was to be sought.

7. Privilege of the Floor

Ida Short, a resident of the Southside Neighborhood, asked whether all luncheon attendees would need to purchase tickets. It was confirmed that tickets would be sold via Eventbrite and that sponsorships could include table purchases. Ms. Short encouraged the Commission to consider sponsored tickets for women or women-led businesses who may not be able to afford attendance.

8. Additional Member Discussion

A commissioner referenced an art contest previously discussed and indicated materials had been printed but not brought to the meeting. It was suggested the topic be addressed at a future working meeting. Clarification was provided regarding mini-grants funding, confirming they are not paid from the CRC budget.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.