



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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www.goshenindiana.org/crc

Minutes for July 7, 2026 Community Relations Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

4 p.m.

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

1. Welcome and Introduction of CRC Members and Guests

Chair Michael Wanbaugh called the meeting to order at approximately **4:15 p.m.** after a quorum was established. Commission members present included E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Lauren Lehman and Angie Wentz. **John Dolezal and Tim Swartzentruber were absent.** City Council Liaison Phil Lederach was also present.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 7, 2026, agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commission members reviewed the June 2, 2026, meeting minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Partnership Event Reports

The commission was scheduled to receive Community Partnership reports from Scott Lehman regarding Float Fest 2026 and Chuck Hamilton regarding Air Supremacy Over Goshen. Both presenters were unable to attend, and the reports were deferred to a future meeting.

5. Financial Report

Chair Wanbaugh reviewed the financial report, noting there had been no significant financial activity since the previous meeting. He reported future expenditures would primarily relate to planning for the commission's Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration.

During discussion, commissioners asked whether any neighborhood associations had applied for the CRC's neighborhood mini-grant program. Wanbaugh reported the College Farm Neighborhood Association had submitted an application and noted neighborhood block party invitations would soon be distributed. He anticipated several additional neighborhood events would be scheduled during the remainder of the year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.



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6. Lacasa Neighborhood Outreach Update

Wanbaugh reported Daniela Panetta of Lacasa was unable to attend due to illness. The planned updates regarding the Community Leadership Institute neighborhood picnic and high school neighborhood outreach efforts were postponed until the August meeting.

7. Upcoming Events

Neighborhood Block Parties

Wanbaugh updated the commission on upcoming neighborhood block parties and encouraged members to watch for calendar invitations as additional events are confirmed throughout the summer.

Future Neighborhood Walkabouts

Wanbaugh reported he is working with Council Member Matt Schrock to organize a neighborhood walkabout in East Goshen during August or September. The proposed walk would highlight several City projects, including improvements at Hapshire Park and the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, while strengthening communication with residents.

He also continues to explore future walkabouts with the Historic Racemier Peninsula Neighborhood Association and the Shanklin-Millrace Neighborhood Association.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration

Wanbaugh reported planning has begun for the 2026 Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration. Following the success of last year's event, the commission intends to again incorporate the celebration into October's First Fridays festivities.

He said he planned to meet with Amanda Rose of First Fridays to discuss potential collaboration with the Goshen Theater while continuing outreach to representatives of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. Commission members discussed developing contingency programming should the Pokagon Band be unavailable. Members suggested incorporating a presentation on the region's historic Indigenous trail system and expanding educational opportunities associated with the event. Commissioners also discussed improving visibility by utilizing a larger stage while continuing to feature traditional dancing and audience participation.

8. Privilege of the Floor

City of Goshen CDBG Coordinator Theresa Cummings shared positive feedback regarding the commission's Community Service Partnership Grant awarded to the Warsaw Housing Authority, which administers Goshen's Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Cummings explained the grant supports renter education classes and provides security deposit assistance for voucher recipients. She reported First Light Mission and Oaklawn staff described the program as essential for helping clients secure stable housing, noting many participants would be unable to obtain housing without assistance for security deposits.

Commission members expressed appreciation for learning how commission grant funding directly benefits Goshen residents.



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Wanbaugh also discussed ideas for increasing neighborhood engagement by simplifying the role of neighborhood association leaders. Commissioners suggested developing a brief handbook or one-page guide outlining leadership expectations, available resources and neighborhood engagement ideas. Members also discussed updating the City's neighborhood webpage and incorporating QR codes linking residents to additional online resources.

Wanbaugh asked Angie Wentz to assist in developing the proposed handbook, and she agreed.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.