



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite 1 • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

Minutes for July 2, 2026 Community Relations Commission Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 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 4 p.m. Commission members present included E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz and Lauren Lehman. Tim Swartzentruber arrived shortly after the meeting began. Guests included CDBG Administrator Theresa Cummings, Daniela Panetta of Lacasa and Community Partnership applicants Jack McMackin and Mark Bourgeois of MusicTown.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Commission members reviewed the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Partnership Presentation – MusicTown

Chair Wanbaugh welcomed Jack McMackin to present the MusicTown Community Partnership proposal.

McMackin explained MusicTown is a regional initiative designed to strengthen the local live music ecosystem by coordinating venues, artists and community partners while pursuing collaborative funding opportunities. The program originated as a pilot in South Bend before expanding to Elkhart and is now seeking to establish a Goshen program.

Rather than functioning as a concert promoter, MusicTown serves as a community development resource focused on increasing awareness of live music opportunities, improving audience engagement and gathering feedback to strengthen future programming. The program provides micro-sponsorships that help venues experiment with new artists, additional performances or expanded programming while collecting information that can be used to build long-term sustainability.

McMackin described the program's collaborative approach, including a regional live music calendar, venue support, coordinated marketing, QR code technology, audience feedback tools and sponsorship opportunities. Venues may choose how extensively they participate, from simply submitting event information to utilizing the program's broader planning and promotional resources.

He shared results from the first year of implementation in Elkhart, where participating venues increased from 10 to 16, approximately 17,500 people attended live music events and community perception of downtown live music improved.



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

Commission members discussed how the program could complement Goshen's existing arts and entertainment culture while highlighting local venues and performers. Members asked about venue participation, sponsorship administration, coordination with neighboring communities and the timeline associated with the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) Arts and Culture grant application.

McMackin explained sponsorships subsidize artist performances rather than venue operations and are intended to encourage experimentation rather than provide ongoing financial assistance. He noted local programs remain independently operated while collaborating regionally on technology, scheduling and larger funding opportunities.

5. Financial Report

Chair Wanbaugh reviewed the financial report through May 31, noting expenses associated with International Women's Day had been reflected in the commission's accounts while maintaining a healthy balance for the remainder of the year. Commission members reviewed account activity and asked several clarifying questions regarding the report format. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

6. International Women's Day Final Report

Chair Wanbaugh presented the final report for the 2026 International Women's Day luncheon. The event attracted more than 150 attendees and featured four speakers. Wanbaugh reported the commission received positive feedback from attendees and secured a record 12 event sponsors, helping expand attendance while strengthening the event's financial support.

The final financial report showed total expenses of \$11,418.46 and total revenue of \$9,239.54. Although the event did not fully break even, Wanbaugh identified opportunities to reduce the shortfall in future years, including passing online registration processing fees directly to ticket purchasers.

Commission members agreed moving the event to an earlier date and partnering with the Goshen Chamber's Women in Business initiative contributed significantly to the event's success.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the International Women's Day final report. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Community Development Block Grant Award Update

Theresa Cummings provided an update on the City's 2026 Community Development Block Grant allocation.

Cummings reported the City received a federal allocation of \$294,400, exceeding the projected amount of \$272,525 and representing the largest allocation since 2010.

She reviewed the commission's allocation recommendations, explaining administrative funding and neighborhood outreach remained at requested levels while public service awards were adjusted proportionally in accordance with federal funding limitations.



Community Relations Commission CITY OF GOSHEN

202 South Fifth Street, Suite 1 • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

Cummings explained Walnut Hill Early Childhood Center received a modest increase after the commission considered reductions in state childcare assistance that have significantly affected low-income families. She noted many participating families have experienced substantial decreases in state voucher assistance despite retaining program eligibility.

To accommodate the adjustment, First Light Mission received a slightly lower allocation than originally requested while continuing to receive substantial support through both Community Development Block Grant funding and the City's Community Partnership program.

Additional available housing funds were allocated toward Lacasa's energy conservation program, with any remaining balance available for reallocation if necessary later in the program year.

Cummings informed the commission the City's grant package had been submitted to HUD for review and approval. She anticipated final approval later in the summer, allowing the program year to begin July 1. She also discussed the federal review process, including challenges experienced during the previous funding cycle, and noted the proposed federal budget again includes eliminating the Community Development Block Grant program. However, she said current feedback indicates bipartisan support for continuing the program.

8. Lacasa Neighborhood Outreach Update

Daniela Panetta updated the commission on neighborhood engagement efforts.

She reported continued outreach in the neighborhood south of Goshen High School, where survey collection and resident engagement remain ongoing. While participation has been lower than anticipated, Panetta identified two residents expressing interest in future neighborhood leadership opportunities and continues working to develop those relationships.

Panetta described several engagement efforts, including participation at First Fridays and a neighborhood block party. Although attendance did not meet expectations, she said those events helped identify potential community leaders and establish new connections with residents.

She also updated commissioners on planning for the June 13 Chamberlain neighborhood picnic, developed by graduates of the Community Leadership Institute. The event is intended to strengthen neighborhood relationships and encourage future leadership development. Planning was reported to be on schedule through collaboration among residents, Lacasa and Goshen Parks & Recreation.

Commission members discussed opportunities to engage future residents of the Aerial Cycle Works redevelopment through neighborhood tours and community gatherings once occupancy begins.

9. Upcoming Events

Chair Wanbaugh reminded commissioners the CRC would again host an information table during the upcoming June First Fridays event. Because he would be out of town, he requested volunteers to coordinate setup, teardown and staffing. Members discussed their availability, and Wanbaugh said he would follow up by email to finalize volunteer assignments.



**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

The commission also discussed future neighborhood walkabouts. Wanbaugh suggested scheduling visits to the Shanklin-Millrace and Historic Race neighborhoods later this year while continuing to explore opportunities to engage residents in the East Lincoln Crossroads area as neighborhood leadership develops.

Wanbaugh also announced planning would begin for the commission's 2026 Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, which will again coincide with First Fridays. Members agreed last year's format was successful and discussed maintaining a similar program while considering additional ideas and presenters.

10. Privilege of the Floor

No additional business was brought before the commission.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:48 p.m.