

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB) MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 VIA ZOOM**

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Members participating were: Rick Ransom, Sudhanshu Sinha, Mark Wilson, Dea Zugby, and Chalya Lar. Council Liaison Jenni Pompei and Staff Liaison Tim George were also in attendance.

Other participants include: Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll (DPW), Mr. Orleans and Nathan Gerdes

**Welcome and Introductions**

Rick Ransom opened the meeting with general introductions and read the Community Pledge.

**Opening Comments**

Rick thanked everyone for coming and briefly reviewed the agenda for the evening. Then, the meeting moved on to the discussion topics sent to the group before the meeting.

**General Discussion**

***Multi-lingual Welcome Signs***

Rick Ransom introduced the discussion of putting multilingual welcome signs up throughout the community, stating that the initial proposal by resident Robert Goldberg-Strassler suggested signs with 10 languages placed at Buddy Attick Park and Schrom Hills Park. Mr. Ransom asked for comments from the Board. Initial questions posed for discussion: 1) should there be signs at all?; 2) If so, what locations should CRAB recommend?; 3) What/how many languages should be included?; 4) what are the potential installation and upkeep?

Mr. Sinha asked if the City had a record of the various languages spoken by the City's residents, or if that information was available from the US Census. Mr. George indicated that the City does not have that information nor is it available at the City level in the Census.

Mr. Ransom asked Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll about sign installation and maintenance costs and DPW support. Mr. Carpenter-Driscoll indicated that it depends on what kind of sign, materials, size, etc. The installation could be very simple, installing a single post, to very complicated like the new gateway sign on Southway. Maintenance is again dependent on the kind of sign. In general, though, sign installation and upkeep is not a significant burden on DPW.

The discussion on languages centered around how many languages in total, and should the signs start with three languages (English, French and Spanish) and add additional languages at residents'/citizens' request. The original suggestion noted 10 languages but did not specify what those languages should be.

The discussion on possible locations suggested having more signs throughout the city in the neighborhoods, in addition to Buddy Attick Park and Schrom Hills Park. There was also discussion about having the neighborhood signs co-designed by the residents to be a community-building experience. Mr. Orleans suggested that the City also host community picnics through the city, throughout the year, to bring neighborhoods together.

There was additional general discussion regarding the topic with the Board agreeing the sign idea was one they would like to discuss further at the next meeting. Key questions to discuss at the February meeting include:

- 1) How many languages should be included?
- 2) What should the languages be?
- 3) What locations/how many signs should be included?
- 4) Should there be a community component to the design? If so, what should that be?

### ***Co-Sponsorship of the “Join or Die” Movie***

Rick Ransom introduced the discussion and Mr. George shared the website for the Join or Die movie. There was general consensus that CRAB supported the idea and would like to pursue it.

A question came up about covering the cost, approximately \$500, and it was suggested that if Council supports the endeavor, there is discretionary funding that the Council could allocate.

The next step is to invite the co-sponsor, Melissa Ann Ehrenreich, to the next CRAB meeting to provide additional background on the idea, what she sees CRAB’s role being and to discuss other logistics. Mr. Ransom offered to reach out to Ms. Ehrenreich.

### **Ear to The Ground (What is CRAB hearing as members of the community)**

Mr. George suggested a possible topic for CRAB is to address the concerns of Council and residents that there are areas of the community whose voices are not being heard and who are not receiving communication from the City. CRAB would reach out directly to these constituencies to see how they prefer to receive information, what information is reaching them now and what the City can do to ensure they are kept in the loop on City news and happenings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.