

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017, IN THE SCHROM HILLS PARK MEETING ROOM.

The meeting began at 7:35 p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Ray Raysor, Dan Hamlin, Dea Zugby, Jamie Krauk, Sherry Burks and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Other City Officials present were: Tom Kemp, Acting Police Chief.

Also present were: Rashawn Ray (via phone), Jeff Harrison and Bill Orleans.

Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone.

Voting Age Referral

Rick summarized the discussion of this issue at the last meeting.

Ray was impressed with how mature some youth were and noted they have great access to information. He stated he would not have a problem with 16 and 17 year olds voting.

Dan reported he had discussed the issue at home and his stepdaughters were opposed to extending the franchise because they believed youth were more likely to be influenced by their parents. He had listened to the presentation and indicated many youth are working, paying taxes etc. Dan agreed that today's 16 year olds are ahead of prior generations and favored lowering the voting age.

Rick was concerned that 16 and 17 year olds might be considered adults.

Jamie endorsed the proposal. She believed that allowing the youth vote would open the door to civic involvement. Jamie suggested a trial period for several elections to gauge interest and participation. She did not favor allowing 16 and 17 year olds to run for Council.

Dea reported on a meeting with the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and how impressed she was with the members. She favored allowing the vote but also noted her husband's opposition.

CRAB reviewed the data provided by the City of Takoma Park.

Sherry thought 16 and 17 year olds could make an informed decision just like other voters.

Bill was troubled by the suggestion regarding a trial period. He believed lowering the voting age was either a legitimate right or not. Bill favored allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote and also suggested allowing resident non-US citizens to vote.

There was further discussion and CRAB agreed to recommend that Council lower the voting age to 16.

Dan favored a very simple recommendation to Council allowing voting at age 16. He did not know what the criteria would be for provisional franchise.

Jamie asked if the other issues discussed such as allowing non-citizens to vote should be included in the report.

Ray recommended that CRAB not reference the discussion of non-citizens being allowed to vote. Sherry agreed.

Dan suggested putting the non-US citizen issue on a future CRAB agenda.

Bill suggested that CRAB look at the 2010 and more recent Census/ACS surveys regarding non-US citizens. He also suggested the police provide information on their interactions with non-US citizens.

Dea read the Community Pledge.

Planning for May 23 Forum

Rashawn confirmed he would attend the forum.

Rick reviewed the outline provided by Jamie. He indicated that the police could share information about their procedures and what might make them feel more comfortable in an interaction.

Rashawn liked the intimacy of the small groups and the idea of the police officers participating in the small groups. He hoped some broader themes would emerge from these discussions.

Sherry liked the prior forum format and wanted to know what CRAB's responsibility was in each of the small groups.

Jamie thought CRAB should facilitate and encourage participation. She hoped the discussion would be spurred by the prompts from Rashawn.

Rashawn suggested broad questions like:

- Unsung hero moment police and citizen
- Has something been said to you and you wondered why
- Do you have a question for the police/Do the police have a question for the community

There was discussion of police officers wearing uniforms vs. civilian attire. Rashawn stated there were pros and cons. He indicated it was important for people to recognize police officers as "regular people."

Establish a Regular Meeting Date

The group agreed to establish the 3rd Tuesday as CRAB's regular meeting date. The next meeting would be held on June 20.

Assignment of CRAB Members to Neighborhoods

There was discussion of Rick's idea that CRAB members become liaisons to certain areas in Greenbelt. CRAB agree to the following.

Rick and Rev. Ray – Franklin Park
Sherry and Jamie – Greenbelt Station
Dan – Center Greenbelt
Dea – Greenbelt East

Bill suggested that CRAB should participate and have activities during Peace Month.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.