

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084.

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m.

1.) Roll Call

Present: Mayor Dane Slater
Lisa Bica-Grotsky
Daniela Natcheva
Richard Coon
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
Kaitlyn Hao – Student Representative
MiVida Burrus

Absent: Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Yudong Zhou
Awni Fakhoury
Cathleen Francois

Also present: Drew Benson, Staff Liaison;
Nominated Student Representative, Arjun Tholakapalei

Mayor Slater introduced Arjun Tholakapalei, whom he had nominated to the Troy City Council for appointment to the Global Troy Advisory Committee as a student representative. Mr. Tholakapalei introduced himself, discussed his background as a student and the activities he is involved with. Mr. Tholakapalei also discussed his interest in serving on the Global Troy Advisory Committee.

2.) Consent Agenda

Resolution # GT – 2019-08-01

Moved by: Richard Coon
Seconded by: Lisa Bica-Grotsky

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the July 16, 2019 meeting be approved.

Yeas: - 6 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 4 -

3.) Regular Business

A. Volunteers for Assignments at International Day

Committee Member Bica-Grotsky introduced the topic, and noted that there are 3 key volunteer positions that are needed for the International Day portion of the Troy Daze Festival. Those positions include a stage manager to coordinate each of the acts throughout the day; a back-gate manager to coordinate the participant's access to the event and the stage; and a table manager to coordinate the organizations that would like to have tables at the event.

Committee Member Coon volunteered to serve as the back-gate manager at the event.

Committee Member Burrus tentatively volunteered for the table manager position, depending on what her life schedule looks like for that week and the preceding weeks. Burrus stated she would get back with Bica-Grotsky in the coming days about that position.

Staff Liaison Benson indicated that he would share he volunteer assignments with the rest of the committee whom are not in attendance and direct them to Bica-Grotsky.

B. Update Regarding 2019 International Day

Committee Member Lisa Bica-Grotsky discussed the progress of the International Day Sub-Committee, noting that the majority of the International Day schedule has been set, and that things with the event and progressing well. She noted the need for volunteers, as well as provided details about each of the acts that have signed up to participate in the event.

C. Share your Story – GTAC Diversity Discussion

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that one of the Committee's goals for the year has been to learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion as a topic, in order to better be able to advise City Council, and the City as a whole, on the issue. One of the ideas proposed at a previous meeting was to dedicate a portion of every GTAC meeting to "share the stories" of each member of the committee. The GTAC is made up of members from a wide range of backgrounds, making the group a prime place to begin learning more about each other, and how their stories make up the larger story of the City as a whole.

Committee Member Burrus offered to share her story, and discussed her background as an African-American. She discussed her childhood in the suburbs of Detroit, and how her grandparents were the children of slaves, and how that history affected their socio-economic status, educational opportunities, and their perspectives as a family. She discussed the family dynamics that arose because of that history, and how it has shaped how her family has grown and evolved over the past few generations.

The group discussed her story, and asked a variety of questions. The group decided that this was a useful and engaging topic, and desires to continue having a "Share your story" section on the GTAC meeting agenda going forward.

4.) Other Business

Staff liaison Benson mentioned that the City's Welcoming Cities" membership was due for renewal, and asked the committee for background on that designation and how the City uses the membership. Mayor Slater discussed the background of the organization, and how the City came to be a member of the organization. He expressed his desire for the City to maintain its membership with Welcoming Cities.

Student Representative Hao discussed her new employment with the Great Greek Mediterranean Grill that opened in the City. She noted that this organization has offered to sponsor a meal for the committee, and how this opportunity may be a great chance for the Committee to learn more about another culture in the City. The committee noted that they would like to look into this opportunity more, and potentially hold a meeting there in the coming months.

5.) Public Comment

None.

6.) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Dane Slater, Chairperson



Drew Benson, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary