

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, July 16, 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 6:07 p.m.

1.) Roll Call

Present: Lisa Bica-Grotsky (arrived at 6:20)
Daniela Natcheva
Richard Coon
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Kaitlyn Hao
MiVida Burrus
Yudong Zhou

Absent: Mayor Dane Slater
Awni Fakhoury
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
Cathleen Francois

Also present: Drew Benson, Staff Liaison; Robert Bruner, Assistant City Manager

2.) Consent Agenda

Resolution # GT – 2019-07-01

Moved by: MiVida Burrus
Seconded by: Daniela Natcheva

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting be approved.

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

3.) Regular Business

A. Introduction to Assistant City Manager – Robert Bruner

The City's new Assistant City Manager, Robert Bruner, introduced himself, explained his background and experiences, and discussed some of the major projects and initiatives that he and the City Manager's Office (CMO) have been working on since his arrival in early June.

Members of the Global Troy Advisory Committee (GTAC) asked a variety of questions, including what drew him to this position, how the CMO has changed since the firing of the

previous City Manager in March of 2018, and what are the current priorities of the CMO. Mr. Bruner and Mr. Benson replied to these questions.

B. Discussion Regarding 2019 International Day

Committee Member Lisa Bica-Grotsky discussed the progress of the International Day Sub-Committee, noting that they are not as far along as she would like to be, but a variety of personal matters have taken away a lot of time and effort from this topic. Bica-Grotsky also noted that things are moving along, and that the next Family Daze meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23rd. She expects to have a finalized list of participants in the next few weeks, and will be meeting with the sub-committee as needed to continue to progress.

C. Feedback – City of Troy’s Parks & Recreation Plan

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that the City’s Public Works Department is spear-heading the effort to update the City’s Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Included in the agenda packet is a survey for citizens in Troy designed to gauge their thoughts on ways to improve the City’s Parks & Recreation functions. Mr. Benson requested that each member of the GTAC complete this survey in physical form, or via the online survey.

The group discussed what a Parks & Recreation Master Plan is, how it relates to the City’s Master plan, and other planning documents, and how this feedback would be reported. Mr. Benson answered questions as needed.

D. Discussion Regarding 2019 Citizen’s Academy

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that the City made it a priority to revive the Citizens Academy program, and that he has been tasked with leading that effort. Mr. Benson discussed what the program is intended to do, how it is designed to be implemented, and the current progress towards implementing it, with an expected start date of September 18, 2019. Mr. Benson then asked for feedback on the provided outline from the GTAC.

Members of the GTAC provided comments, including how to better include Troy’s diversity as an educational topic, asking what the graduation requirements are for the program, and the interaction of the program with other local functions, such as public schools and non-profits. Mr. Benson indicated he would work with City staff to include as many of these suggestions as possible prior to implementation.

E. Share your Story – GTAC Diversity Discussion

Committee Member MiVida Burrus 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.

Student Representative Kaitlyn Hao offered to share her story, and discussed her background as a 1st generation American with parents who were born in China. She discussed her history of growing up in China for a short period of time, and how her ancestral culture is often at odds with the American culture she has dually grown up in.

The group discussed her story, and asked a variety of questions including; “what is your diversity story”, “what are some traditions your family maintains?”, and “Has growing up in America taken away from your ancestral culture?”.

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

None.

5.) Public Comment

None.

6.) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Dane Slater, Chairperson



Drew Benson, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary