

Community Stakeholders Roundtable
Theme 5 Diversity
June 24, 2009

The group met on Wednesday, June 29, 2009, at the Regional Planning Commission office. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The April meeting included a discussion about an upcoming music event that Charlie Thomas and others were attempting to pull together. Mr. Thomas believed that this type of an event could be a way to bring groups of people within the community together. Mr. Thomas was not present at this meeting to provide an update on that event.

Juneteenth was discussed briefly. Major Martin commented that he worked security for the event. He stated that attendance was good. Mr. Lawson stated that the event was a celebration commemorating the date that slaves were set free in the United States.

A copy of a letter sent to all names on the current eligibility list for police officer was distributed to all in attendance. The letter indicated that the City was currently in a hiring freeze and that the applicant's name would remain on the list in accordance with Civil Service Rules. A copy of that letter is attached.

Sherri Ketner mentioned that she was aware of an upcoming event being planned by Jesse Lowe at Lincoln Park. Major Martin stated that it was his understanding that the event was to be for the whole family. Mr. Lowe is working to secure funding for the event.

A copy of the minutes from the Survey Sub-committee were distributed. A copy is attached. A review of the minutes prompted a discussion on the plan for a survey. Tom Mazur suggested that a survey might be impractical, and if conducted, would be costly and may not deliver the type of information that we need if not conducted in a professional manner. The general conclusion of the group is that conducting a series of focus groups may be more viable than conducting a survey.

Other comments from the meeting included that churches are a way to reach members of the black community, but in some cases local churches are not always effective at interacting with one another. Another comment was that people would take action to support the community by applying for police officer positions because they want to support the community.

The meeting adjourned at 5 PM.