

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 in the Council Boardroom at Troy City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

## 1. Roll Call

Present: Venkatesan Balaraman  
Samir Bagri  
Lisa Bica-Grodsky  
MiVida Burrus  
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga  
Richard Coon  
Daniela Natcheva  
Rouba Samman  
Mayor Dane Slater  
Ricky Young (Student Representative)

Absent: Awni Fakhoury  
Syeda Mohideen

Also present: Lori Bluhm, City Attorney  
Meghan Broderick Lehman, Police Sergeant  
Cindy Stewart, Community Affairs Director  
Eleanor Yoon, Recording Secretary

## 2. Minutes

### Resolution # GT – 2016-11-01

Moved by: Bica-Grodsky  
Seconded by: Burrus

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting be approved.

Yeas: - 9 -  
Nays: None  
Absent: - 2 -

## REGULAR BUSINESS

## 3. 2017 Meeting Schedule

### Resolution # GT – 2016-11-02

Moved by: Chamberlain-Creanga  
Seconded by: Balaraman

RESOLVED, that the Global Troy Advisory Committee will hold the next meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00 PM in Council Boardroom.

Yeas: - 9 -  
Nays: None  
Absent: - 2 -

The committee will determine the 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule at the January 24, 2017 meeting.

#### **4. “Waking in Oak Creek” Screening**

Police Sergeant Meghan Lehman showed a film about Not In Our Town – Anti Hate Rally, which took place in Canton, Michigan, and suggested a collaboration between the City of Troy Police Department and the committee to host a similar event in Troy next year. The event will include the screening of the documentary “Waking in Oak Creek.” Sergeant Lehman said organizing the event will be done mostly by the Police department and that she is specifically asking for help with spreading the word and promoting the event. The committee was very receptive to the idea and will support the event. Sergeant Lehman will get back to the committee with more information about the event date, time and location, at which point further discussion will take place.

#### **5. Global Troy Action Plan**

In order to develop the Global Troy Action Plan, it was decided at the last meeting that the committee will break into several subcommittees. To be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, City Attorney Lori Bluhm discussed rules and regulations about working in subcommittees. Each subcommittee shall not have 6 or more members to avoid having a quorum.

Ms. Chamberlain-Creanga proposed the committee to be divided into three subcommittees: Learning & Resources, Communications, and Outreach & Programming. Each committee member shall serve in two committees. The Learning & Resources subcommittee will focus on stocktaking of existing global-cultural organizations and activities in Troy and create a resource list for the public. The Communications subcommittee will build a strategic communication plan to not only get the word out on the committee but also to serve as a bridge between existing institutions. The Outreach & Programming subcommittee will help program different community events, such as Not In Our Town – Anti Hate Rally and Global Troy Lecture Series.

The committee reached a consensus to employ Ms. Chamberlain-Creanga’s proposal for subcommittees. Each committee member will send Ms. Yoon their top choices via email.

As the city plans to launch a new website in January 2017, the Global Troy Advisory Committee will have a designated webpage. Developing content for the webpage would be another task for the Communications subcommittee.

To continue the Global Troy Brown Bag Lecture series for city staff, Ms. Yoon asked for topic and guest speaker suggestions. Committee Members will email their suggestions to Ms. Yoon.

## **6. Discuss recommendations for vacant Global Troy Advisory Committee seat**

Mayor Slater will take recommendations for one vacant Global Troy Advisory Committee seat from the committee members. The committee members will email their recommendations to the recording secretary.

## **7. Election Overview**

Mayor Slater talked about local election results and feedback he received from different communities. He said that the Indian American community especially expressed their disappointment since there were several candidates from the community who entered the race for various positions and did not win. Many were deeply hurt and realized that biases and prejudices still exist in the community. Mayor Slater opened the floor to the committee to discuss how each member felt about local election results.

Ms. Burrus said implicit bias generated by a candidate's name is part of the issue. She also discussed intrusive campaign techniques and their unintended detrimental effects.

Mr. Balaraman said that one of the ways to fight implicit bias is by reaching out and educating. He stressed the importance of candidate visibility and said that candidates should make more efforts to reach out to different people.

Ms. Chamberlain-Creanga expressed regret about frequent incidents of stealing and damaging campaign yard signs in her neighborhood. The campaign yard signs reflect diversity and democracy and should be respected as a way to exercise one's freedom of speech.

Ms. Samman said there should be more outreach efforts to register and educate voters. There should be more ways to help voters familiarize themselves with the ballot before the election.

Ms. Bica-Grodsky hoped those who were especially disappointed by this election would view it as an empowering opportunity to get involved. She suggested a voter registration drive similar to the Rock the Vote movement as a future project for the Global Troy Advisory Committee.

## **Other Business**

None

## **Public Comment**

Community Affairs Director Cindy Stewart shared with the committee the Diversity Resources Guide that her department compiles and distributes. She also makes a calendar every year that lists holidays from different cultures and religions and will share it with the committee.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.



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Dane Slater,  
Chair



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Eleanor Yoon,  
Recording Secretary