

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 17, 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 6:09 p.m.

1.) Roll Call

Present: Mayor Dane Slater
Lisa Bica-Grodsky
Daniela Natcheva
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
Yudong Zhou
Cathleen Francois
Arjun Tholakapalei – Student Representative

Absent: Kaitlyn Hao – Student Representative
Richard Coon
MiVida Burrus
Awni Fakhoury

Also present: Drew Benson, Staff Liaison;

2.) Consent Agenda

Resolution # GT – 2019-09-01

Moved by: Daniela Natcheva
Seconded by: Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting be approved.

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

3.) Regular Business

A. 2019 International Day Follow-Up

Committee Member Bica-Grodsky introduced the topic, and highlighted the report that she wrote for the group regarding International Day 2019. She highlighted the positives, which included a great turnout from the participants in the event, as well as the improved stage, and the significant contributions from various members of the committee.

Bica-Grodsky also highlighted some of the challenges of the event, which include issues with the Troy Community Foundation's communication with the International Day Subcommittee that resulted in issues with performances, a lack of participation from members of the Global Troy Advisory Committee in the event, and the limited promotion of the event.

The group discussed Lisa's feedback, and indicated that it would like to begin planning the event earlier in the year in 2020, perhaps in February or March.

B. Next Steps for the GTAC in 2019

The group discussed Mayor Slater's impending end of his term as Mayor, and how that would affect his role on the Committee. Slater indicated that while he won't be mayor, he expects the next mayor to be involved with the group.

Committee Member Chamberlain Creanga noted that she would like to revisit the mission and purpose of the committee with the next mayor and more clearly identify how it would like to proceed in the future and garner political and administrative support for that defined mission.

Committee Member Bica-Grodsky noted that as many as 4 members of the committee have terms that expire after the conclusion of the next Global Troy Advisory Committee Meeting in October. These individuals would need to either be reappointed, or replaced, in order for the Committee to continue in the future.

Staff Liaison Benson indicated that the key function of the Global Troy Advisory Committee is to advise City Council, and perhaps these questions and concerns could be best addressed to City Council in the form of a report from the Committee to City Council, and the Committee could provide recommendations to Council as to how they would like to proceed.

The group decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting, and come back with ideas as to how to advise City Council about their future.

C. Share your Story – GTAC Diversity Discussion

Committee Member Natcheva offered to share her story, and passed around a traditional Bulgarian dish to members of the group. In addition, Committee Member Natcheva shared a short video about Bulgaria that showed the modern and historical aspects of the country, and how they intertwine in the day-to-day lives of those who live there.

Natcheva shortly discussed her background growing up in Bulgaria, where she is from, his past as an academic there, and then her move to the United States of America.

The group thanked Natcheva for her time and effort to put together this "share your story" presentation.

4.) Other Business

None.

5.) Public Comment


None.

6.) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Dane Slater, Chairperson



Drew Benson, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary