

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 via GoToMeeting in compliance with the State of Michigan's Executive Order 2020-75 that temporarily suspends strict compliance with physical-place and physical-presence requirements of the Open Meetings Act in order to allow electronic meetings

1.) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2.) Roll Call

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker
Lisa Bica-Grodsky
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
MiVida Burrus (arrived at 7:52 PM)
Daniela Natcheva
Awni Fakhoury
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz
Kaitlyn Hao – Student Representative

Absent: Cathleen Francois
Suneel Sekhri
Emily Nacy
Yudong Zhou
Arjun Tholakapalei - Student Representative

Also present: Drew Benson, Staff Liaison; Mark F. Miller, City Manager

3.) Consent Agenda

Resolution # GT – 2020-06-01

Moved by: Awni Fakhoury
Seconded by: Daniela Natcheva

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting be approved as presented

Yeas: - 7 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 4 -

4.) Regular Business

A. Discussion regarding City Statement & Actions related to ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement

- Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic
- Mayor Baker discussed the 2 protests in Troy
- Committee Member Hao talked about her work organizing that event, and seeing so many people, especially young people, getting involved. Talked about conversations that have come about regarding systemic racism, and the experiences of people
 - Asked about zero-tolerance policy for Troy Schools, asked if Troy had a policy.
 - Benson noted that the City does have a comprehensive policy regarding harassment and discrimination. This policy was established prior to recent events, and may be worth revisiting.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky discussed the positive aspects of the protests and the attitude in the community being generally supportive of the movement.
- Committee Member Natcheva asked about DEI plan – maybe now is the time to look into this
 - Mayor Baker talked about the joint meeting idea with City Council as being a time to bring that further forward.
 - City Manager Miller discussed the background of the previous DEI plan, and that it would be the preference of Management to have specific direction from City Council to pursue this, and how they would like that done.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz noted that she knows a lot of people who attended the protests, and heard that it was a very powerful event. Liked to see the Troy Police Department getting out and involved with people and being open to continuing conversations.
- Committee Member Hao talked about the resistance to the protests from some members of the community, and that while Troy is diverse, it is not necessarily entirely inclusive or tolerant.
- Mayor Baker talked about his experiences in the City recently related to black lives matter movements, and animosity towards both protestors and the police. Hopes to see more constructive conversations, and hopes to see a dispelling of misinformation. He noted that these protests, and all related things in the City show that there is still a lot more to be done.

- Committee Member Mohideen noted that she would like to see the GTAC interact with the schools a little on this as well.
- Mayor Baker talked about the upcoming Police Community Forum, the City Council's proclamation in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement, and the compilations of information that the City has distributed related to questions for the City's polices.
 - City Manager Miller talked about Obama's 8-point recommendations for police departments, and noted that the Troy police Department currently does 7 of the 8, and is working in getting body cameras for officers to complete the 8th point. Miller also discussed Governor Whitmer's recommendations for Police Departments, and noted that the City already does, and has done, many of the recommendations for years. The City is reviewing the remainder of recommendations to make improvements as needed.
- Committee Member Fahkoury talked about how important it is for cities to have Police Citizens Academy, and outreach resources like the Troy has.
- Committee Member Burrus discussed her appreciation for what the City has done in issuing a statement and being supportive of protests. She also noted that she would like to see the GTAC approve a statement of their own, or an affirmation of the City's statement.
- Mayor Baker voiced support for this topic, but wondered how a statement could be physically signed by all members of the committee.
- Committee Member Burrus stated that she could write a starting statement, which could be discussed at the next GTAC meeting. This would then be shared with the group, input added, and a final collective statement could be approved for distribution to the community.

B. Election Discussion and potential recommendations regarding joint meeting options with City Council

- Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, discussing the background, and the intent to have a more open dialogue with City Council regarding GTAC's role with the City, and to get further direction from City Council regarding the tasks they should be pursuing.
- City Manager Miller discussed City Council's schedule over the summer, noting that it would be tough to fit in an additional meeting, but it can be done.
- Mayor Baker noted his preference would be to do it in person

- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz noted that with COVID counts increasing, it may make more sense to do this meeting virtually. People are getting used to meeting virtually, and it would be safer
- Mayor Baker noted that meeting outside may be difficult technologically
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted that virtual meetings are easier, and the extra caution regarding COVID is important. Weather is also a concern regarding outdoor meetings.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted an in person meeting would be better than virtual. She noted her support for late summer if it is better for meeting.
- Mayor Baker noted he is leaning towards having the joint meeting sooner and virtually, but would prefer an in-person meeting. Mayor Baker noted that City Manager Miller will take this information back to City Council for further discussion regarding scheduling.

C. Discussion regarding International Day Status

- Mayor Baker noted that Troy Family Daze has been officially cancelled.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted that she will be reaching out to organizations interested in participating to let them know.
- Mayor Baker noted that this does allow for more time for GTAC to iron out kinks and work out how to have an even better International Day event in 2020.
- Committee Member Burrus noted that perhaps the City could sponsor some sort of international day related content around international day to keep the momentum.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky was volunteered to try and coordinate such a thing, and discussed various ways of trying to do this. She noted that she would need help from City Staff to do this.
- Committee Member Natcheva voiced her support for MiVida's idea, and would like to see some 2-minute clips of international day events to show their dances, which could then be shared on the City's social media.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted that she can work on getting the video clips, and Committee Member Hao could put those videos together. She also noted that this may make sense to plan for around when International Day would normally happen in late September.

- City Manager Miller noted that this should be do-able.

5. Other Business

A. Library Community Engagement

- Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that City Management will be looking to work with GTAC members for some feedback regarding the Library funding. Benson noted that he isn't sure how that will look yet, but wanted members to have it on their radar that they may be reached out to.
- Mayor Baked noted that City Council has sought to get input from more than the normal group of people who communicate with the City, and Global Troy as a group is one group that was highlighted.

B. Resignation – Drew Benson, Staff Liaison

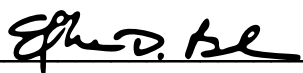
- Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic – noting that this will be his last meeting with the Global Troy Advisory Committee, as he has accepted a position as the Director of Community and Economic Development with the City of Clawson, and will be starting there on July 7th. Benson discussed his appreciation for the members of the committee, and everything they have gone through over the nearly 2 years he has been with Troy.
- Members of the Committee went around to thank Mr. Benson for his work with the Committee, and noted that they will miss him.
- City Manager Miller indicated that for the short term, GTAC members should communicate with City Management directly until a successor liaison is decided.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.



Ethan Baker, Chairperson



Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary