

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday December 16, 2020 via Zoom 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 6:05 p.m.

### **2.) Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker  
Lisa Bica-Grodsky  
MiVida Burrus (arrived at 6:08 p.m.)  
Awni Fakhoury  
Kaitlyn Hao  
Allison Liu (Student Representative)  
Syeda Mohideen  
Daniela Natcheva  
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz  
Suneel Sekhri  
Arjun Tholakapalli (Student Representative)  
Yudong (Tom) Zhou

Absent: None

Also present: Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary

### **3.) Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Minutes from the November 18, 2020 Regular Meeting**

##### **Resolution # GT – 2020-12-01**

Moved by: Awni Fakhoury  
Seconded by: Lisa Bica-Grodsky

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

Yeas: - 8 -  
Nays: None  
Absent: - 1 -

### **4.) Regular Business**

**A. Discussion Regarding Scheduling 2021 GTAC Meetings**

- Staff Liaison Ames introduced the item and noted that the included Wednesdays were included because they were the dates each month without conflicts.
- Mayor Baker noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month would work best for him due to conflicts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- Committee Member Fakhoury agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday would work for him as well.
- The Committee discussed and 6pm was the agreed upon time for Global Troy Advisory Committee monthly meetings.

**Resolution # GT – 2020-12-02**

Moved by: Awni Fakhoury  
Seconded by: Syeda Mohideen

RESOLVED, that Global Troy Advisory Committee meetings will be held on the third Wednesday each month as presented.

Yeas: - 9 –  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**B. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee 2021 Events**

- Staff Liaison Ames introduced the item and noted that the included list of events was not exhaustive, but that it was a good place to begin planning events.
- Mayor Baker noted that having a list of events to celebrate or acknowledge was a great place to start, but that action needed to be taken on events, which could be a great amount of work.
- Mayor Baker noted that subcommittees or groups could be developed to focus on events.
- Committee Member Sekhri suggested the development of ad-hoc teams to address each celebration.
- Mayor Baker suggested partnering with groups or promote for other groups events, referencing the Athens High School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event, usually held annually.

- Committee Member Hao asked for a short explanation of the Winter Holiday Traditions December event since she was not a member in the last meeting and wasn't sure what the event was about.
- Student Representative Liu told the Committee about the event, individuals and groups that were participating in the event, and how long the video compilation was.
- Mayor Baker commented that the City will post on the City of Troy YouTube channel and on social media.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted that Global Troy hosting an event every month would be too much for the Committee Members to commit to.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz said that with the December event she noticed that there were many groups that GTAC didn't have contacts for, but that the December Winter Holiday Traditions event helped expand the Committee's contacts and awareness of groups and organizations in Troy.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz Suggested developing a spreadsheet of contacts for organizations.
  - Committee Member Natcheva noted that Staff Liaison Ames was already putting together this list.
  - Committee Member Bica Grodsky said she would share past years' contacts from Troy Family Daze International Day event.
- Committee Member Sekhri asked Committee Member Natcheva what the connection between the Winter Holiday Traditions event and Troy.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted that most of the participants were housed in Troy and that the focus of the event was the organizations of Troy.
- Committee Member Natcheva discussed that the Committee developing a variety of events through the year would keep more community members engaged.
- Mayor Baker reminded the Committee that it should be aware that diversity, cultural knowledge, and awareness is the Committee mission to be focused on when developing events.
- Committee Member Natcheva suggested developing an ad-hoc group for International Women's Day in March.
- Committee Member Bica-Grodsky noted that she liked the ideas of collaborating various celebrations in one event quarterly, and then hosting single events for larger celebrations such as International Women's Day but there must be someone who organizes.

- She will contribute the International Day participant contact list to Staff Liaison Ames.
- Committee Member Burris suggested doing a recap of the celebrations that have happened that quarter without giving preference for any celebrations.
- Student Representative Liu suggested holding an event in the middle of the quarter to recap what celebrations have happened and what celebrations are to come for that quarter to look forward to like was done with the Winter Holiday Traditions event.
- Mayor Baker noted that the City could promote the events and celebrations to educate residents.
- Committee Member Burris suggested if the Committee can't hold an event or find anyone in the area to support, then resources such as PBS and other nationally available resources could be used to educate the community.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky suggested developing guidelines to send to groups participating in events, including how to hold a phone when recording a video for a virtual event or how to submit videos.
  - She also suggested when events can be held in person again to video tape participants to share for our events throughout the year.
- Committee Member Sekhri suggested working with restaurants associated with certain celebrations, for example a Greek focused month, to support the Committee through giving discounts, or integrating them in the events.
- Student Representation Liu suggested developing a challenge such as a Bingo, to complete events.
- Committee Member Natcheva asked about getting a budget to purchase gift cards and marketing materials for giveaways.
- Mayor Baker asked Staff Liaison Ames how Global Troy Advisory Committee could have their own budget.
- Committee Member Fakhoury asked about sponsorships being posted on the back of t-shirts or other marketing materials for events
- Committee Member Natcheva asked if the City was still discussing developing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan.
- Mayor Baker said that we would talk about that at a later agenda item, but that the Committee should decide their plan of action to hold events.

- Committee Member Mohideen suggested following through on hosting events quarterly.
- Staff Liaison Ames asked the Committee if they wanted to focus on the January, February, and March quarter events and interview individuals from the past events to how they have celebrated or how they are going to celebrate upcoming events if the event was held in the middle of the quarter.
- Committee Member Natcheva discussed the March Women's History Day and who would participate in that ad-hoc event group.
  - Mayor Baker, Daniella Natcheva, and Kaitlyn Hao have agreed to put together a Women's Day/Women's Month event for the Committee.
- Mayor Baker noted that the group should focus on Black History Month, and that the group should promote other events and hold an event as well.
- The group discussed developing a formal subcommittee for Black History Month. Members of this subcommittee include:
  - Mayor Baker
  - MiVida Burris
  - Carolina Noguez-Ortiz
- Committee Member Natcheva discussed the Troy Public Library's January 21 event titled: Human Diversity Social Justice and You and Global Troy inviting individuals to that event.
- Committee Members discussed connecting with individuals in the community that would be able to support events and would be great contacts for interviews and videos to share to the community.
- Mayor Baker noted that the group will come together at the January 2021 meeting to discuss the progress of the Black History Month subcommittee and the International Women's Day events.
- Staff Liaison Ames told the Committee that there needed to be a formal vote to approve a subcommittee for Black History Month.
- The Black History Month subcommittee was passed unanimously.

**Resolution # GT – 2020-12-03**

Moved by: Ethan Baker

Seconded by: Awni Fahkoury

RESOLVED, that the Black History Month Subcommittee be created.

Yeas: - 9 –  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

### **C. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee Name Change**

- Mayor Baker introduced the topic said that he wanted to change the name of the Committee to focus more on unity in the community and true goals of the Committee.
- Committee Members will send name change ideas to Staff Liaison Ames to compile then discuss the options at the January 2021 meeting.

### **5. Other Business**

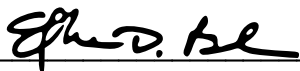
- Mayor Baker gave the Committee a few City of Troy updates:
  - The City had preliminary budget discussions in November and one of the discussion points was about adding a full-time staff person for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
  - This staff person would be focused on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan for the City.
- Mayor Baker would like to remind the City Management to hold a joint meeting with Global Troy Advisory Committee in the first quarter of the year.

### **6. Public Comment**

None

### **7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Ethan Baker, Chairperson



Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary