

**Global Troy Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual**

**1.) Call to Order**

**2.) Roll Call**

**3.) Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes from the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

**4.) Regular Business**

- a. Debrief of the Joint City Council and Global Troy Advisory Committee
- b. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee Upcoming Events and Quarterly Event

**5.) Other Business**

**6.) Public Comment**

**7.) Adjourn**

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday February 20, 2021 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 6:03 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker  
Lisa Bica-Grodsky  
Awni Fahkoury  
Allison Liu (Student Representative)  
Daniela Natcheva  
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz  
Suneel Sekhri  
Arjun Tholapalli (Student Representative)  
Yudong (Tom) Zhou (arrived at 6:08pm)

Absent: MiVida Burrus  
Syeda (Nas) Mohideen

Also present: Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary

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

#### **A. Minutes from the January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting**

##### **Resolution # GT – 2021-02-01**

Moved by: Suneel Sekhri  
Seconded by: Awni Fahkoury

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting be approved as presented.

Yeas: - 7 -  
Nays: None  
Absent: - 3 -

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

#### **A. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee Event Updates**

- Mayor Baker noted that the BHM subcommittee was holding Black icon videos and a panel at the end of the month. This panel will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm broadcast live on the City of Troy YouTube channel.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz discussed that the event would include various panelists and that the BHM Subcommittee will begin publicizing the event beginning on Monday.
- Mayor Baker noted which panelists would be participating which includes Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Brooks, Phyllis Meadows from the Kresge Foundation, and Cornelius Godfrey.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz asked the group to participate in the Black icon event by signing up on the SignUpGenius. Committee Member Sekhri asked for clarification on the Black icon videos event.
- Committee Member Natcheva told the group about the International Women's Day event and noted the various community members participating in it.

## **B. Funding and Sponsorships for Events Update**

- Staff Liaison Ames introduced this topic. She worked with the Finance Department to get a small budget of \$6,000 for community events and marketing materials for Global Troy Advisory Committee beginning in Fiscal Year 2021/2022.
- Committee Member Bica Grodsky made it clear that the budget for international day funds came from the troy family days committee in the past.
- Staff Liaison Ames noted that there have been small expenditures that have come from the City's budget in the past, including an International Day banner.
- The group discussed that the event for Troy Family Daze and Committee Member Bica Grodsky noted that the first meeting to discuss Troy Family Daze will be held remotely at the beginning of March.
- Mayor Baker noted that due to the pandemic Troy Family Daze will likely be scaled down.

## **C. Discussion Regarding the City Council and Global Troy Joint Meeting**

- Staff Liaison Ames let the Committee know that the March 10, 2021 meeting will actually be a joint meeting with the City Council.
- Staff Liaison Ames noted that she would work with City Management to develop discussion points, but that wanted to get input about what had previously been

discussed in the Committee and what the Committee Members want to see out of the Joint Meeting.

- Mayor Baker noted his expectations of the meeting and that he would like to know what the expectations of City Council as an advisory committee was and what the Committee's role is.
- Mayor Baker noted there was a draft DEI plan a few years ago and a Council proclamation. Mayor Baker noted that he would like the opportunity for City Council to tell us what they want Global Troy to do regarding the DEI plan.
- Mayor Baker noted that the City was going to be working with GovHr Consulting to determine where the City should start their diversity, equity, and inclusion journey and that he would like to get on the same page with City Council and figure out what each of the Committee members could do that would be beneficial to the DEI plan.
- Committee Member Sekhri noted that he thinks there are a few aspects of the City that are already moving toward the goal of DEI and questions that need to be asked regarding DEI:
  - What is Global Troy doing now, leveraging diversity to enrich Troy. This binds residents together into a cohesive group.
  - Look to other communities and see what they are doing and how they work with diversity.
  - the group and Council should focus on what within the City do we need to integrate DEI for the City to serve effectively?
  - What does Council want from the group. The City should make a timeline, a long-term plan, to share and have a common vision of what we want to work with City Council.
- Mayor Baker noted that Troy has a City Council that is receptive and ready to use Global Troy Members' skills.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted that Global Troy should tell Council what the Committee has done in the past. Global Troy has focused on three main points: Talent, culture, and government.
  - How can we help with talent or bringing more diverse people into different positions? Culture is what we are currently doing with events and government is something we could focus on during elections.
  - Global Troy can help with translations, police, other governmental offices, if they need some kind of help reaching the community.
  - Global Troy did this in the DEI plan and we were thinking about short term goals and long-term goals.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted that at the Joint Meeting, City Management should introduce the Committee with slides.

- Committee Member Sekhri commented that the Joint Meeting should discuss if there is a link between the position or consultant and the GTAC group.
- Mayor Baker noted that it was a great idea and asked Member Sekhri to bring that up during the meeting.
  - City Management will have to put together an agenda. We will have ample discussion to figure out further discussion points.
- Committee Member Bica Grodsky asked to include her discussing the information she receives from the March 2, 2021 Troy Daze meeting.
  - It would be nice to know what the City Council wants or are interested in seeing at the International Daze.
- Mayor Baker suggested that the April meeting focus to really hammer down what we will do for the Springtime celebrations reflection.
- After a discussion with the Committee about the upcoming budget year funding for Global Troy, Mayor Baker asked Staff Liaison Ames to update City Council about the funds for Global Troy at the Joint Meeting and noted that City Council doesn't have to approve anything under \$10,000.

## **5. Other Business**

- Committee Member Bica Grodsky and Mayor Baker thanked Staff Liaison Ames for her work toward the DEI plan.

## **6. Public Comment**

None

## **7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm

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Ethan Baker, Chairperson

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Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2021

To: Global Troy Advisory Committee

From: Sarah R. Ames, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: Joint City Council and Global Troy Advisory Committee Meeting Report

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On March 10, 2021, City Council and Global Troy Advisory Committee met in a Joint Meeting to discuss the efforts of Global Troy Advisory Committee and their role in cultural awareness and knowledge, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and community engagement in Troy.

The following action items were suggested by Global Troy Advisory Committee Members and City Council Members during the meeting:

### Action Items for Global Troy Advisory Committee:

1. Continue cultural education events.
2. Discuss a potential quarterly report to inform Council of what Global Troy has done in the quarter.
3. Group members will email Council at [CityCouncilEmail@troymi.gov](mailto:CityCouncilEmail@troymi.gov) with concerns they may have or comment from the community.
4. Develop a plan for Global Troy Advisory Committee to use the City's Welcoming America membership.
  - a. Ideas brought up during the meeting include to:
    - i. Develop a subcommittee focused on utilizing Welcoming America.
    - ii. Post quarterly Welcoming America webinars for the community.
    - iii. Hold Council meetings to watch Welcoming America webinars.
5. Reach out to community groups for connection with Global Troy Advisory Committee to work with for Welcoming events and cultural education events.
6. Partner with Troy Public Library for events.
7. Discuss holding Welcoming events for new Troy residents or a Welcoming Month in September.

### Action Items for City Staff:

1. Create a new webpage to include:
  - a. Invitations/documents for events that Global Troy Advisory Committee hosts.
  - b. Contacts for the Committee Members who can translate at events.
  - c. Links to translated documents, to be found on the corresponding pages (Ex: planning applications that are translated would be included in the Planning webpage).
2. Involve Global Troy Advisory Committee in the Master Plan as well as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Citizen Engagement efforts, where possible.
3. Identify minority owned businesses.
4. Modify employee policies to be more inclusive of various holidays/celebrations/religions.



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## MEMORANDUM

5. Determine if the City has an anti-racism policy and develop one, if not.



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## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2021

To: Mayor Ethan Baker  
Global Troy Advisory Committee

From: Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison/Recording Secretary

Subject: Global Troy Advisory Committee 2021 Spring Events

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### **History**

The Global Troy Advisory Committee discussed at the November 18, 2020 meeting about hosting events and activities throughout the 2021 Calendar Year to promote cultural awareness and inclusivity.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Global Troy Advisory Committee discuss events to celebrate during the Spring quarter focusing on March to May 2021 celebrations and events.

- Baba Marta (Grandma Marta Day)- March 1, 2021
- Bulgarian Liberation Day from the Ottoman- March 3, 2021
- Women's History Month- March
- Irish-American Heritage Month- March
- Ramadan- April 12 to May 13, 2021
- Eid ul Fitr- May 13, 2021
- Jewish American History Month- May
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month- May

It is also recommended that Global Troy discuss the International Day Event (September 19, 2021) and make an action plan or develop a group to focus on this event.