

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday May 12, 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 6:06 p.m.

2.) Roll Call

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker
Lisa Bica-Grodsky
Awni Fakhoury
Allison Liu (Student Representative)
Daniela Natcheva
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz
Suneel Sekhri (arrived at 6:29pm)
Yudong (Tom) Zhou

Absent: MiVida Burrus
Kaitlyn Hao
Arjun Tholakapalli (Student Representative)

Also present: Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary

3.) Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

Committee Member Bica-Grodsky asked for an amendment to the meeting minutes, to correct "Troy Days" to "Troy Daze".

Resolution # GT – 2021-5-01

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

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting be approved as amended.

Yeas: - 6 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 3-

4.) Regular Business

A. Debrief of the Joint City Council and Global Troy Advisory Committee

- Staff Liaison Ames introduced the topic.
- Mayor Baker asked for a debrief and general conversation about the Joint Meeting with City Council.
- Committee Member Fakhoury noted that he thought it was a great meeting and appreciated the opportunity to meet with Council.
- Mayor Baker noted that he agreed and would like to hold the next Joint Meeting in person and bring food.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky agreed with Committee Member Fakhoury and said that she thinks the meeting was long overdue for the members who have been on GTAC. A Joint Meeting is something that was talked about on the Committee for the last few years. She would like to meet with Council annually or bi-annually.
- Committee Member Fakhoury suggested annually and that committee members bring foods from different countries for the joint meeting with Council.
- Mayor Baker commented that it is good to have that dialogue with Council and that he agrees Joint Meetings with City Council should continue.
- Staff Liaison Ames discussed the action points for Global Troy Advisory Committee. She suggested a report to Council on what is going on in the Global Troy Advisory Committee and developing a subcommittee focused on utilizing the City of Troy's Welcoming America membership. She noted that this would help with the turnover of staff liaisons and would keep the committee more involved.
- Mayor Bakers commented that planning for the future was good for succession planning and asked the group if they would be interested in participating.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted that she participated in the Welcoming America Welcoming Interactive and she enjoyed it so much and it encouraged her to become involved. She noted that some of the initiatives that Welcoming America shared align very well with GTAC and it motivated her to be active with Welcoming America.

Resolution # GT – 2021-5-02

Moved by: Ethan Baker

Seconded by: Awni Fakhoury

RESOLVED, that the Welcoming America subcommittee is established.

Yeas: - 7 -

Nays: None

Absent: - 2-

Resolution # GT- 2021-5-03

Moved by: Ethan Baker
Seconded by: Daniela Natcheva

RESOLVED, that the Mayor appoints Committee Members Noguez-Ortiz, Bica-Grodsky, and Mohideen as members of the Welcoming America subcommittee.

Yeas: - 7 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 2-

B. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee Upcoming Events and Quarterly Event

- Staff Liaison Ames introduced the item and suggested that the group discuss developing an event to celebrate or highlight the Spring celebrations that have passed if members feel the group could.
- Committee Member Natcheva suggested highlighting families on social media, Asian American/Pacific Islander Month and Ramadan, and to focus more energy on the summer time since it is the end of the Spring.
- Mayor Baker suggested that we could retrospectively highlight the Asian American/Pacific Islander month if committee members feel they have the ability and availability to work on the event.
- Student Representative Liu suggested holding an event where GTAC asks community members what Asian American/Pacific Islander Month means to them. Her event ideas included videos of asking families and community members what Ramadan and Asian American/Pacific Islander month means to them.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz added that include some pictures would be great. She highlighted that there was a rally in Troy and several Councilmembers attended. There were quotes in the paper to include, or interview someone about how anti-Asian attacks have impacted Asian American/Pacific Islander month.
- Committee Member Natcheva suggested to include International Children's Day on the list of events and holding an event for June 1st at the library, community center, or at a park to host games for kids.
- Student Representative Liu asked if there was a list for summer events.
- Staff Liaison Ames said she would send out the list to GTAC members.
- Mayor Baker stated that the restrictions will change as they progress and more people get vaccinated but he isn't expecting many people to attend large group gatherings.
- Committee Member Natcheva suggested holding an event one hour before a Concert in the Park event.
- Committee Member Bica-Grodsky gave an overview of Troy Family Daze International Day event information. She asked for a lineup by the end of June. There are also limited expenses due to COVID and that sponsors would be helpful.

She noted that Staff Liaison Ames had suggested making a subcommittee for International Day.

- Committee Member Bica-Grodsky asked for support from committee members to join the subcommittee and also attend the Troy Family Daze meetings.
- Committee Member Nogues-Ortiz asked how individuals or businesses could support and donate to Troy Family Daze.
- Committee Member Bica-Grodsky said that they information should be included on the Troy Family Daze website.
- Committee Members Mohideen, Sekhri, and Mohideen as well as Student Representative Liu volunteered to participate in the subcommittee.
- The committee discussed other channels of communication to get the visibility of the committee up.

B. Other Business

Committee Member Bica-Grodsky commented that she was unaware of the rally in Troy against anti-Asian crime and would like to be notified when there are public cultural events.

C. Public Comment

Public Comment can be submitted via email at GTACPublicComments@troymi.gov and via voicemail at 248.524.3567

D. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Ethan Baker, Chairperson



Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary