

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 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 6:00 p.m.

1.) Roll Call

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker
Lisa Bica-Grotsky
Daniela Natcheva
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
MiVida Burrus
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Awni Fakhoury
Emily Nancy
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz
Suneel Sekhri
Yudong Zhou

Absent: Cathleen Francois
Arjun Tholakapalei - Student Representative
Kaitlyn Hao – Student Representative

Also present: Drew Benson, Staff Liaison

2.) Consent Agenda

Resolution # GT – 2020-01-01

Moved by: Awni Fakhoury
Seconded by: Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting be approved.

Yeas: - 11 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 1 -

3.) Regular Business

A. Introduction to new Global Troy Advisory Committee members

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that the City's new Mayor, Ethan Baker had appointed himself, and 3 other individuals to serve on the Global Troy Advisory Committee to fill all available seats. Benson then invited each individual to introduce themselves.

Mayor Ethan Baker introduced himself, discussed his background, and his priority to learn more about the Global Troy Advisory Committee and ensuring its success.

Committee Member Suneel Sekhri introduced himself, discussed his background, and his interest in serving on this committee

Committee Member Emily Nacy introduced herself discussed her background, and her interest in serving on this committee

Committee Member Carolina Noguez-Ortiz introduced herself discussed her background, and her interest in serving on this committee.

Each member of the Committee welcomed the new members, and commented on the increased diversity and perspective that the Committee now has.

B. Appointment of a Chairperson for the Global Troy Advisory Committee

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic by highlighting the establishing resolutions for the Global Troy Advisory Committee that are included in the member binders that each Committee member has. Benson noted that at no point had the GTAC adopted a set of by-laws that more specifically govern how the committee is structured, including who would serve as the chairperson of the Committee. Historically, former Mayor Dane Slater had served as the chairperson by default, although this was never formalized.

Benson noted that with the introduction of a new Council representative in Mayor Ethan Baker, as well as 3 other new members, it may be appropriate for the Committee to decide who would serve in the chairperson capacity.

The committee discussed the implications of having by-laws, and what having them would do to more clearly define what the Global Troy Advisory Committee is intended to do, and how it is structured. The consensus was that having a draft set of by-laws to review and have further discussions about would be valuable.

The Committee then discussed the role of a chairperson, noting that the role entails chairing the meetings, and being the pseudo-face of the committee in public. Former Mayor Slater had had that role, and the committee discussed whether the new mayor, as a member of the committee as well, could do that as well. Mayor Ethan Baker said he would be happy to do so, and thought it made sense. Baker also noted that he would like anyone else interested in being chairperson to have the opportunity to do so.

Resolution # GT – 2020-01-02

Moved by: Awni Fakhoury
Seconded by: Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga

RESOLVED, that Ethan Baker be named the Chairperson for the Global Troy Advisory Committee for the duration of his term.

Yeas: - 11 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 1 -

Resolution # GT – 2020-01-03

Moved by: Ethan Baker
Seconded by: Syeda Mohideen

RESOLVED, that the Global Troy Advisory Committee request staff Liaison Benson to work with City Staff to develop a draft set of Committee By-Laws for review at the next Global Troy Advisory Committee Meeting.

Yeas: - 11 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 1 -

C. Consideration of Global Troy Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2020

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, and noted that because the previous Global Troy meeting had been cancelled due to lack of quorum, they were unable to approve a new year-long schedule moving forward. Benson noted that included in the agenda packet were a monthly, and every-other month schedules for the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM, as has been the Committee's historical preference.

The Committee discussed the options, with some members seeking the day be perhaps Wednesday or Thursday in some months, although a majority of the group could not agree on a consistent alternative day of the week.

The Committee also discussed moving the time of the meetings to later in the day, like 7:00 PM, as many members of the Committee struggle to get to City Hall by 6:00 PM as currently scheduled.

Resolution # GT – 2020-01-04

Moved by: MiVida Burrus
Seconded by: Lisa Bica-Grotsky

RESOLVED, that the Global Troy Advisory Committee will meet monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room through November of 2020.

Yeas: - 11 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 1 -

D. Consideration of a draft communication to Troy City Council

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that at the previous few Global Troy meetings, the Committee had been working on a draft communication to Troy City Council regarding what the committee has been doing, it's need for new appointments to fill vacancies, and a desire for an expanded relationship with City Council. Benson noted that since the previous meetings, there have been appointments made to all vacant seats, making the previously drafted document outdated.

Chairperson Ethan Baker discussed what he has learned about the committee since he was elected Mayor, and how the newly elected City Council differed from the previous City Councils that the Committee has worked with.

Members of the Committee shared their experiences as a GTAC member, including having 4 different staff liaisons in two and a half years prior to Mr. Benson joining the City in late 2018. The group also discussed the successes and failures of past initiatives, such as the proposed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan, Committee sponsored "Lunch & Learn" events for City Staff, and others. It was noted that there was frequently a lack of communication between the committee, City Management, and City Council, as it pertained to expectations and goals for the Committee.

Chairperson Baker noted that there is still a need for City Council to expand its relationship with the Global Troy Advisory Committee, and that could come in the form of a formal communication, such as a report, and also in the form of a joint meeting between the two groups. Baker noted his support for both, and indicated that he would like to continue this conversation at the next meeting in February, and begin working on a recommendation from the Committee to City Council as to how to proceed.

The committee agreed with that idea, and Staff Liaison Benson noted that he would place it on the next agenda for discussion.

E. Discussion Regarding 2020 Census

Staff Liaison Benson introduced the topic, noting that the Committee has had previous discussions regarding the 2020 Census, and has already recommended or enabled a few census-related activities. Benson highlighted that the official census will be in April, and that

now is the time for the Committee to further discuss what recommended activities it would recommend that the City undertake to support the 2020 Census.

The group discussed the topic, noting that there are many ethnic communities within the City of Troy that will be hesitant or resist the Census efforts due to misinformation and/or fear of what their information would be used for. Because of that, it was highlighted that any informative campaigns should clearly communicate why the 2020 Census is taking place, what the information is used for, why it is important for people to participate, and how to ensure that their information is being gathered by the right people.

Through the discussions, the Committee noted that the City should work with the Census Bureau to schedule one or two community engagement sessions where members of the Community could come and learn more about the census and dispel and misconceptions they may have, as well as provide more information how the Census data is gathered. The City could then promote the events through its social media and printed channels, and the members of the Global Troy Advisory Committee could distribute the program invitations/flyers to key leaders within their respective communities to promote the event.

Staff Liaison Benson said he would reach out to the City's Census representative, as well as City Management, to determine what can be done. Benson said he would report back at the next Global Troy meeting.

4.) Other Business


Committee Member Bica-Grotsky discussed the 2020 Troy Daze Festival and the GTAC's International Day component, and recommended establishing a sub-committee for that event within the next month.

5.) Public Comment

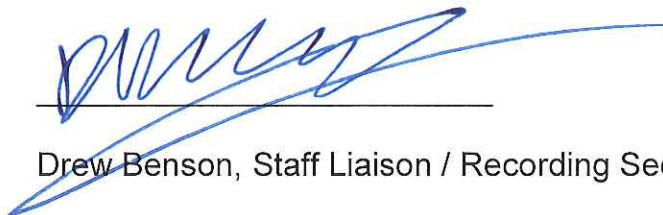
None.

6.) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Ethan Baker, Chairperson



Drew Benson, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary