

A meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday January 13, 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 6:04 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Ethan Baker  
Lisa Bica-Grodsky  
MiVida Burrus  
Allison Liu (Student Representative)  
Daniela Natcheva  
Carolina Noguez-Ortiz  
Suneel Sekhri  
Yudong (Tom) Zhou (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

Absent: Awni Fahkoury  
Kaitlyn Hao  
Arjun Tholakapalli (Student Representative)  
Syeda (Nas) Mohideen

Also present: Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary

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

#### **A. Minutes from the December 16, 2020 Regular Meeting**

##### **Resolution # GT – 2021-1-01**

Moved by: MiVida Burrus  
Seconded by: Suneel Sekhri

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.

Yeas: - 6 -  
Nays: None  
Absent: - 4 -

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

#### **A. Discussion Regarding Global Troy Advisory Committee Upcoming Events**

- Committee Member Burrus asked Staff Liaison Ames to schedule a Black History Month Subcommittee meeting
  - Mayor Pro Tem Theresa Brooks will also be a part of this subcommittee.
  - Sterling Heights has shared their plan for Black History Month event on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Committee Member Burrus suggested that GTAC hold a panel discussion, but that they reach out to residents to see if they want to do an iconic black figure video as a weekly activity leading up to the panel discussion.
- Committee Member Sekhri talked to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, whom has worked with various cities in the area. They can also work with other museums that they can collaborate with and they can have presentations and tools.
  - Some suggestions, link things between Troy and the museum, some individuals to identify artifacts in the home, then the museum staff will then give the background of where they are from in Africa
  - They can put together a presentation on a few topics:
    - Warding matters
    - The richness of Africa- food, traditions, evolution/human DNA
  - MLK sponsorship, they don't need money but we could pay a bit and Troy will sponsor
  - They can do an exhibit in the Troy lobby and it can be for one day or for one week, three hundred dollars, or \$1000 for a week. Zoom calls addition to talk about what's in the exhibit, that is \$300.
  - Mayor Baker noted that City Hall is currently closed for COVID but this is something that we can utilize next year.
- We also have a choice to work with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History August 9<sup>th</sup> when National Women's Day in South Africa is celebrated
  - They Museum also has very elaborate presentation and the principles of kwanza and rituals which can be utilized in December 2021.
- Mivida will look into what the museums have done with other cities for Black History Month because they are also working with the City of Sterling Heights
- Mayor Baker commented that there is going to be an MLK day event from the Troy Interfaith Group on Monday January 18 that he and Committee Member Burrus are participating in which will be uploaded to the City's YouTube channel and posted on social media.
- Student Representative Liu stated that the regular activities at Athens High School is not holding their MLK Day event this year.
- Committee Member Natcheva described her International Women's Day and Baba Marta ideas, including a presentation.

- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky offered her help with international day event
  - She suggested highlighting a woman in positions of medical, fire, police, etc.
- Committee Member Burrus noted that the nomination form for International Woman's Day was a great idea.
  - The Committee will be posting a form to the website at the beginning of February.
- The Committee discussed including other woman from areas like education and local government.
- Committee Member Burrus and Student Representative Liu suggested holding a Spring event similar to the Winter Holiday Traditions event, where past and future Spring related events are focused on, and individuals from each focus could tell the City what those events mean to them and how they celebrate them.

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

- Staff Liaison Ames presented three options from Committee Members for Committee Name Change options.
- Mayor Baker noted that the City may be hiring an employee or developing a plan so names with "Diversity" may be jumping too quickly.
- Committee Members Zhou and Noguez-Ortiz noted that they liked the name as it is.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted there was a Council at Troy School District called Troy Inclusion and Diversity Council, but she likes Global Troy Advisory Committee.
- Committee Member Noguez-Ortiz suggested focusing on the mission, branding, and to develop a logo for Global Troy.
- Student Representative Liu suggested we could focus on cultural diversity and include the name "diversity" into the name change, if we change the name.
- Mayor Baker said that he would like to hold a joint meeting with GTAC and City Council, to get more direction before decisions are made.

## **5. Other Business**

- Mayor Baker noted that Members were given the opportunity to tell their story, or share something about themselves at meetings and that he would like to bring back that opportunity.

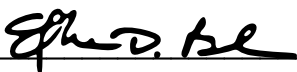
- Committee Member Zhou, noted that he would develop a presentation for the upcoming February 2021 meeting.
- Committee Member Natcheva noted that the Committee used to hold in person Lunch and Learns for the City Employees, which was well received and would be beneficial to do this again.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky noted that she was invited for International Day Chair person, the Troy Daze Festival is slated to happen the 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> of September, and International Day may be September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff Liaison Ames gave updates on various topics:
  - She reminded the Committee to send their guidelines for participants taking video for Committee events so that all videos are recorded in the same way.
  - She discussed Human Library initiative briefly and invited the Committee to a few Human Library launches to better understand the initiative.
- Student Representative Liu noted that in November the group discussed promoting small businesses.
- Committee Member Bica-Grotsky thanked Mayor Baker for his statement and social media post about the event at the Nation's capital.

## **6. Public Comment**

None

## **7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Ethan Baker, Chairperson



Sarah Ames, Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary