

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Murphy, City Council, and Management Team

From: Margy Greer, City Clerk
Teri Colvin, ACIC Coordinator

Date: 5/18/2013

Re: 2013 First Quarter Report - Status of Assignments and Recommendations from the Advisory Commission for an Inclusive Community (ACIC)

The following is a review of the progress of the Advisory Commission for an Inclusive Community (ACIC) during the first quarter of 2013. The review contains updates on assignments and/or recommendations that were made, completed, or are still in the working stages of committees during the first quarter of 2013.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

During the first quarter of 2013, the structure of the ACIC changed significantly for the first time since its inception in 2007. On February 11, 2013, City Council adopted Resolution 2013-7, which reduced the number of members from 43 to 30 and replaced the eight committees (Business; Diversity Education; Environment; Historic Preservation; Neighborhoods; Parks, Trails and Open Space; Public Art and Culture, and Seniors) with three new committees: Civic Awareness, Neighborhoods and Sustainability.

At the ACIC Annual Planning Meeting, held on February 23, 2013, the afternoon was spent defining what each of the three new committees meant to the entire Commission through a word association activity. Key words and phrases identified were then used to construct draft purpose statements for each of the new committees. Once the key areas of focus and purpose statements were taking shape, ACIC members were asked to move into the committee that best fit their interests, based entirely off the newly defined committees. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Baroway and City Council President Diana Wilson spoke to the Full Commission about the history of the ACIC and how beneficial the Commission is to City Council and presented six new assignments for the ACIC to work on in their new committees.

On March 25, 2013, the ACIC gave its annual report to City Council. Chair Gay Dugan reviewed the progress made in 2012 and Vice Chair Chuck Nichols discussed the plans for 2013.

Guest speakers attended several Full Commission meetings including Evelyn Baker, who discussed the changes to the zoning ordinance; Program Manager Rachel Hansgen from Groundwork Denver, who talked about outreach efforts related to the lower Bear Creek; and Lakewood Municipal Court Administrator Norm Brisson, who shared statistics about homelessness in Lakewood and the impact it has on the Lakewood Municipal Court.

No new members were appointed to the ACIC in the first quarter of 2013 and for the first time in several years, there are no vacancies to promote. Several community members have attended meetings and expressed an interest in joining the ACIC; some have even submitted applications to be considered should a position open up.

2013 PROJECT/ASSIGNMENT UPDATE

“Day Without Hate”

This grassroots project was initiated by the Diversity Education Committee, prior to ACIC’s restructure, as a way to promote the Jefferson County School District event outside of schools and take the message further into the community.

Members of the Diversity Education Committee presented their proposal to City Council Officer’s on February 25, 2013. City Council Officers agreed with the recommendations made and agreed that the City of Lakewood would promote April 26, 2013 as a “Day Without Hate” in the City of Lakewood.

Status: Complete

Code of Ethics for City Council

City Council asked the Commission to research if other municipalities have a Code of Conduct for their elected officials. If so, what does it include? Have they had to enforce it and under what circumstances? Do they have a Code of Conduct or is it framed as a different document?

On March 6, 2013, this assignment was given to the Civic Awareness Committee to complete.

Status: In Progress

Civility in Lakewood

At the request of City Council, the ACIC was tasked with researching and developing best practices to promote civility in City Government and especially, when the public is speaking at City Council Meetings, Ward Meetings, and at other government functions.

On March 6, 2013, this assignment was given to the Civic Awareness Committee to complete.

Status: In Progress

Diversity Education Opportunities for Community and Staff

City Council asked the Commission to research and develop possible educational opportunities for the community and staff that will be inclusive in all areas of diversity: ethnicity, race, disabilities, culture, etc.

On March 6, 2013, this assignment was given to the Civic Awareness Committee to complete.

Status: In Progress

How to Engage Community Members

At the request of City Council, the ACIC was asked to research and recommend ways in which to foster relationships and mentoring amongst the senior population, businesses, and teen population.

On March 6, 2013, this assignment was given to the Neighborhoods Committee to complete.

Status: In Progress

“If I were Mayor” Essay Promotion

City Council asked the ACIC to promote the Colorado Municipal League’s “If I Were Mayor...” Contest in the schools located within Lakewood’s city limits.

On March 6, 2013, this assignment was given to the Neighborhoods Committee to complete. Immediately, the Committee began contacting Lakewood middle schools encouraging teachers and students to participate. Lakewood students submitted 19 essays. Winners will be selected and announced in May.

Status: Complete

Civics 101 Promotion

City Council has asked the ACIC to promote Lakewood’s “Civics 101” program to a more diverse group of residents.

Status: Not Assigned – will assign when application and 2013 program materials are available from staff.