

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF DELANO**  
**Spirit of Community Commission**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 2018**  
**7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**Members present:** Dale Graunke, Sarah Grosshuesch, Joe Kittok, Ted May, Becky Schaust, Theresa Schlosser-Green, Matt Schoen

**Liaisons:** Phil Kern, Justin Markon, Nick Neaton

The meeting was called to order by Ted May at 7:03.

**2. Minutes**

A. Minutes of the regular Spirit of Community Commission meeting of Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved on a motion by Dale, seconded by Theresa.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

**4. Order of Business**

A. Commission goals

Each committee reported on news:

1. **City Visibility.** Justin shared the newly published Delano City Guide, featuring expanded city content.
2. **Strategic Roadmap.** Nick shared a working list of Delano-area civic and community volunteer groups. He asked commission members to share their input with adding groups and/or updating existing groups.

Nick will contact Sarah and Amy about a networking breakfast or other event for volunteer groups.

1. **Educate the commission.** No update
2. **Welcome and connection for residents.** The group is starting a strategy for increasing National Night Out participation this year.

B. Delano community relations document

Justin reported on progress in creating a print and online document promoting city values, culture, services, amenities, opportunities, neighborhoods, etc. Suggestion for the content and format should be forwarded to Justin directly: [jmarkon@delano.mn.us](mailto:jmarkon@delano.mn.us)

The group hopes to have this document ready for distribution by National Night Out in August.

C. Discussion of development of a hate-crime action plan

Nick shared an updated draft of the hate crime response plan. He provided definitions of four terms in the plan: prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and bias. Nick will amend the plan to include correct verbiage about protected classes and present the amended plan for a vote at the May meeting.

D. Recap of the Delano Community Expo

Becky said that attendance was about half of the usual amount, and the Delano Area Chamber of Commerce is trying to understand the reason why. There were fewer vendors this year, as well. SOCC booth volunteers said they had positive interactions with expo-goers. However, the subjects of conversations rarely dealt with commission goals. It was an opportunity to raise awareness levels.

E. Review City of Delano rental property ordinance

City administrator Phil Kern introduced a proposed rental-property ordinance that would require license and inspection processes for rental properties. The city council asked the Spirit of Community Commission to review this ordinance for its potential impact on Delano's affordable housing market. Discussion points included:

- A. concerns about this new ordinance forcing landlords to raise rents and/or sell their rental properties, resulting in fewer available rental units.
- B. the city receives a disproportionate number of complaints about rental properties vs. owner-occupied properties.
- C. there is a high demand for rental properties in Delano
- D. this is a humanitarian issue - we need to be a community that welcomes all potential residents and provides a decent standard of living for rental properties
- E. tenants must have protection from their landlords' retaliatory action if they report problems.

Commission members would like more information, including data or experiences from similar communities with rental ordinances. The planning commission has requested more information about the proposed ordinance, as well. Spirit of Community members will have more chances to discuss this issue at future meetings.

F. Common vocabulary

Nick defined the following terms in relation to the proposed hate-crime response plan:

- A. *Bias: prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.*

B. *Discrimination: the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.*

C. *Bigotry: intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself*

*Prejudice: preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience*

G. Going forward

**Does the commission feel sufficiently informed and prepared to identify action steps?**

Action steps include:

A. National Night Out event. The fire department is interested in working with SOCC on this event.

B. Community relations document

C. Hate crime response plan

D. Booth at Delano Community Expo

H. Other business

## **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by chair Ted May.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at Delano City Hall.