

OXFORD COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
May 5, 2016

ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER

The Oxford Community Relations Commission Meeting of May 5, 2016 was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Doug Elliott, Director. Those members present were: Patrick Meade, Dan Umbstead and Catherine Lok. Brian Jong and Steven Quaye were excused.

Kim Newton, Recording Secretary was in attendance for the City.

Guests: Dr. Khalid Eid, Physics professor and advisor for the Muslim Community; Rongfu Zhang, graduate student from China; and Ursrat Jahan Urmi, Muslim resident from Bangladesh.

ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 3, 2016 Community Relations Commission Meeting.

Mr. Umbstead moved to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Meade seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3

Discussion with Dr. Khalid Eid, Miami University.

Dr. Eid, Physics professor and advisor for the Muslim community spoke to the Commission about his experience as a Muslim living in Oxford and teaching at the University. Dr. Eid noted Miami and the City is a great climate for Muslim students and advised he has not seen anything specific that would really worry him. Dr. Eid also expressed his opinion that the Miami student community could care less about the color of your skin and just care if you are a good person and noted Miami and Oxford is a very welcoming community. Dr. Eid advised sometimes one of his kids will come home and complain that a little child said something and noted you have to be super sensitive because minorities are always very sensitive and you have to sometimes read between the lines.

Ms. Jahan Urmi advised she and her husband, who is a grad student, have been here for one and a half months and noted in that period she has not experienced any negativity from the Miami or Oxford community. Ms. Jahan Urmi stated she asked her husband if he has experienced anything that would disturb him and noted that her husband stated it was difficult to find water to use prior to praying which is used for religious purification and symbolism. Ms. Jahan Urmi advised Muslims must wash their hands, face and feet prior to

praying. Mr. Rongfu Zhang advised there is a washing station available at the Armstrong Center in the meditation room for Muslims to use for praying. Ms. Jahan Urmi noted Muslims pray five times a day and can pray anywhere as long as it is a clean spot.

Ms. Lok noted there are over 1000 Chinese students and expressed her feelings the Chinese students are segregated from the rest of the student population and pointed out that she rarely interacts with them because they tend to keep to themselves. Mr. Rongfu Zhang noted their lifestyles are very different and unique from American's lifestyles and noted they are more comfortable hanging out with people who know each other's styles.

General discussion ensued.

ITEM 4

Other Items of Interest

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Umbstead moved and Ms. Lok seconded to adjourn at 4:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.