



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
November 4, 2021
7:30PM

Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

Board or Commission: Community Relations
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: November 4, 2021
Called to Order: 7:03 p.m.
Adjourned: 9:06 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairman	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Bill Enright	Commissioner	Present
Tauya Forst	Commissioner	Present
Mari Luangrath-Ullrik	Commissioner	Present
Michelle Roman-Garcia	Commissioner	Present
Kim Thomas	Commissioner	Absent
Also Present:		
Mark Franz	Village Manager	Present
Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	Present
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	Present
Phil Norton	Police Chief	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Present
Sophie Kenney	Library Youth Department Assistant Director	Present
Dave Harris	Executive Director of Glen Ellyn Park District	Present
Erica Krehbiel	Chief Communications Officer at District 41	Present
Public Present:		

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The **November 4, 2021** regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairman Irwin at **7:03 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Chairman Irwin states before we begin I would like to recognize November is National Native American Heritage Month. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

Chairman Irwin states she would also like to recognize that on this day in November it is Diwali. Diwali or Deepawali, known as the ‘festival of lights,’ is usually celebrated in October or November, and is on November 4 this year. Lasting over five days, the holiday is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs worldwide. The name of this festival is derived from ‘avali,’ which means ‘row,’ and ‘deepa,’ meaning ‘clay lamps.’ When merged, these words mean ‘a row of lights.’ For this reason, lights are symbolic of this festival and Indians go overboard with sparklers and fireworks to fuel the inner light that spiritually protects them from the darkness.

B. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Library Liaison Report* – Sophie Kenney reports that the library continues to work on DEI initiatives. The library will also be conducting more staff training in cultural awareness and education.
2. *Park District Liaison Report* – Executive Director Harris reports the park district is focusing its time on financial aid and scholarship aid awareness. Our goal is to allow willing participants to be able to participate in our programs regardless of their financial situation. We are committed to this; 55% of our funding comes from users. We are looking to increase our fundraising, which has taken a hit during COVID. There is a funding gap, we are able to meet this funding gap, but it takes away from other projects. We also want our scholarships to be inclusive. One of our challenges are awareness for the need and to get the word out so people know these scholarships are available.
3. *District 41 Liaison Report* – Chief Communications Officer Krehbiel reports that Dr. Kaczowski came to the Rotary Club and did a presentation about diversity, equality, and inclusion. I think she would be happy to come to one of the CRC meeting to discuss this topic.
4. *Police Department Liaison Report* – Police Chief Norton reports that there will be a coat drive on November 12; the coats can be dropped off at the police station. We are also doing Toys for Tots with the Marines. Saturday is Coffee with the Cops followed by a Q&A.

Village Manager Franz states that there is a village wide DEI employee training at the end of November. Village Manager Rodman states this 90-minute session can be scheduled with the CRC.

5. *Trustee Liaison report* – Trustee Christiansen reports that the Village Board will be working on budgets starting November 8.

Chairman Irwin asks when we would make our budget requests. Assistant Village Manager Rodman replies we have budgeted \$500 for the CRC as a placeholder. Village Manager Franz states we can always make adjustments as the group moves forward.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2021 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Enright

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Roman-Garcia

RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

E. COMMUNITY REQUESTS

1. Chicago World Relief Organization Request (see attached) – Village Manager Rodman reports that the commission received a request from a resident who is interested in housing a refugee family on the second floor of their occupied, single-family home. Rodman states under our zoning restrictions this is not allowed. In order to do this, a text amendment to the code would need to be made. If the zoning code text were to be amended, it would change for all not just this one circumstance. An application would need to be submitted by the homeowner and brought before the Planning Commission for an evaluation and a recommendation to the Village Board. This process can take 4-6 months from the time the application is submitted. Rodman adds if the CRC is in support of the text amendment change, staff would prepare a memo to the village board and the board would decide if they want to direct staff to work on this. After an extensive discussion amongst the CRC, they decided to request additional information and research on this request.

Commissioner Enright motions to recommend to the Village Board that staff conducts additional research for changing 10-4-8.-R2 zoning code to allow an additional family to live under one home.

Motion to recommend that the Village board has staff conduct additional research on changing the zoning code
MOTION BY: Commissioner Enright
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Forst
RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

D. COMMISSION STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

1. Prioritization Exercise – Chairman Irwin ask the CRC what impact we want to have on the community and if they have any suggestions/examples that the CRC can prioritize. The CRC suggests: developing a community calendar, identify people in the community who have accomplished something to be celebrated, feature teachers who are doing something special, incorporate DEI in already existing village events and research what other communities are doing.

E. COMMISSION TRAINING -

1. Open Meetings Act (OMA) – Assistant Village Manager Rodman states you are required to do the OMA training once during your tenure. This is to be completed online within 90 days; however, the state's website has been down since April. Rodman reviews the following Illinois OMA topics with the CRC: Training

Requirement • Intent of OMA • Openness Required • What is a Public Body • Defining a Meeting • Quorum • Gathering • Attendance by Public Body Members • Remote Attendance • Remote Meetings • Public Notice • Advance Notice • Location of Notice • Continuous Posting Requirement • Minutes • Approval & Posting of Minutes • Right to Record Minutes • Public Right to Speak • Public Comment • Final Action • Other Components of OMA • Conditions for Meeting via Audio or Video Conferencing

2. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – Assistant Village Manager Rodman reviews the following FOIA topics with the CRC: What is a “Public Record”? • Who may be asked to respond to FOIA Requests? • How FOIAs are submitted? • Process of answering FOIAs • Time to respond? • Too Large/Too Many • Records not released – “Exempt”

3. Robert’s Rules of Order – Assistant Village Manager Rodman distributes Robert’s Rules of Order packet to the CRC for their review.

F. NEW BUSINESS – None

G. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Roman-Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Luangrath-Ullrik. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Next Meeting Date – December 2, 2021

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Emily Rodman, Staff Liaison