



Agenda
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations Commission
Thursday, September 1, 2022
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

Meeting Procedures Statement

Members of the public are welcome to speak to any item not specifically listed on tonight's agenda. For those items which are on tonight's agenda, the public will have the opportunity to comment at the time the item is discussed. Individuals wishing to address the Commission shall exercise proper decorum and respect for the proceedings and the business of the Community Relations Commission, and shall refrain from abusive demeanor and language. Commissioners are not obligated to respond to questions.

Any individual with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact The Village of Glen Ellyn ADA Coordinator, 630-469-5000, in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Review of Minutes

- 1) Review of May 2022 Community Relations Commission Minutes

D. Commission Liaison Reports

- 1) Trustee Liaison
- 2) Staff Liaisons (Adm/Police)
- 3) Library Liaison
- 4) Park District Liaison
- 5) School District Liaison

E. Audience Participation

F. Commission Priority Review and Action Discussion

- 1) CRC Prioritization Summary Report Review
- 2) Commission Action Discussion
 - Community Calendar Process
 - Festival of Cultures and Partnership Opportunities
 - Holding Commission Meetings Outside the Civic Center

G. Review Suicide Awareness Proclamation

- 1) Suicide Awareness Proclamation

H. Next Meeting - October 6, 2022

- 1) Potential discussion topics: Setting Commission Calendar for 2023, Continued application of DEI Lens

I. Adjourn



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2022
7:06PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 306

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

Date: May 12, 2022
Called to Order: 7:06 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:24 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairman	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Bill Enright	Commissioner	Present
Tauya Forst	Commissioner	Absent
Mari Luangrath-Ullrik	Commissioner	Present
Michelle Roman-Garcia	Commissioner	Present
Kim Thomas	Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Mark Franz	Village Manager	Present
Emily Rodman	Assistant Village Manager	Absent
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	Absent
Dave McDonald	Park District Liaison	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Present
Dawn Buss	Library Executive Director	Present
Public Present:		
Lindsey Anderson	Young Equal	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The **May 12, 2022** regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairman Irwin at **7:06 PM** at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Chairman Irwin states May 2nd marked the end of Ramadan. May is also Asian American Heritage Month.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2022

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2022, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Roman-Garcia

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Luangrath-Ullrik

RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Staff Liaison report* – Village Manager Franz reports we had 2 listening sessions on the hotel property on Roosevelt Road. There will be one more session on June 2nd. We are in the process of coming up with 5 alternatives for this site that will be vetted and evaluated. The CBD Streetscape project is underway. We are running on schedule and on budget. We offer weekly zoom meetings to keep the public updated on the project's progress. We are hoping to have Main Street fully open at the end of July. We are also trying to finalize the Comprehensive Plan; discussions will begin again on Monday.

Village Manager Franz asks the CRC if everyone received an invitation to celebrate the Wheaton & Glen Ellyn Olympic athletes. He adds if anyone on the commission is interested in attending to please let us know so we can purchase tickets. The event is scheduled on May 26.

2. *Park District Liaison report* – Dave McDonald reports the Park District is looking to get a referendum passed on June 28. This would help with improvements to Sunset Pool (which was built in the 1950's), upgrading Ackerman fitness center, Churchill Park, Village Green Park (field upgrades), Lake Foxcroft Park (new playground). We are also looking to purchase the property at Lenox Road and improve the trails and make it ADA compliant. Newton Park is now open. Upcoming events are bike rodeo, touch a truck, movies and jazz in the park and bingo for seniors. Seasonal hiring is still ongoing.

3. *Library Liaison report* – Executive Director Bussey reports we launched our new website to increase accessibility. Our summer reading program begins on June 1. June

is pride month; we will be hosting a “Let’s Talk” on June 3rd.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Lindsey Anderson, program director of Young Equals, states Young Equals is an organization that serves Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Lombard’s 11–23-year-old young adults of rainbow identity. She adds Young Equals hosts book clubs, writing classes and various other events. These events are free for our participants. Many businesses have contributed to our organization, and we look forward to partnering with the CRC. Chairman Irwin thanks Anderson for the work she is doing and states the CRC would be interested in partnering with Young Equals.

E. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: NEXT PRIORITY

1. Community Outreach Discussion: Create Awareness & Educate: Community Calendar which could include Festival of Cultures: The CRC discusses how to have a community calendar which would include DEI events from all community entities. The CRC decides that event criteria would need to be established as well as timelines and procedures for calendar submissions so that the CRC can review and approve submissions before events are added to the CRC DEI calendar. Chairman Irwin asks Commissioner Luangrath-Ullrik to come up with the calendar criteria and submission process.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Roman-Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Thomas. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Emily Rodman, Staff Liaison



Community Relations Commission **2021 Prioritization Summary Report**

January 10, 2021

Executive Summary

In December 2021, the Community Relations Commission (CRC) engaged in a facilitated exercise, identifying key priorities to guide their work moving forward. Six of the seven Commissioners participated in the exercise. The Village Board liaison, Village staff liaisons and designated liaisons from partner organizations were also present at the exercise, although they did not actively participate.

Participants recognized existing successes related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts within the Glen Ellyn community. Many of the successes identified centered on the recognition within the community and the municipal organization that DEI issues matter and the overall willingness among varying groups to engage in a dialogue around DEI topics.

Participants presented 18 suggestions for key areas of focus for the Commission moving forward. These suggestions generally fell within four categories identified by the participants, which they ranked in order priority as follows:

- 1) Policy and Training
- 2) Create Awareness & Educate
- 3) Community Outreach
- 4) Attainable & Inclusive Living

The Process

Village staff engaged the Commission using a well-known facilitation process called the “Technology of Participation” (TOPs) method. Participants were first asked to identify community successes related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues in the community. These strengths were recorded on the wall for all participants to review.

The participants were then asked to silently consider areas where the Village and the community at large fall short in matters related to DEI. The question was posed to the Commission “What policies and/or programs should the CRC focus on during the coming year?” Each participant was asked to present in writing three suggestions in response to the question posed. Once completed, all suggestions were read aloud and posted for the group to review.

The participants were then directed to group like-minded suggestions in categories. After much discussion, the participants identified four distinct categories of focus. The participants were then asked to create a title for each category and finally, to individually rank the four categories in order of priority (1st, 2nd, 3rd) based on their personal perspective. The results of the exercise were compiled into this report.

Community Successes

The following community successes related to DEI issues were collectively identified by participants:

- Completion of the “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Discovery Report” (a joint partnership between the Glen Ellyn Public Library, Glen Ellyn Park District and the Village of Glen Ellyn)
- DEI training of Village staff (including the Police Department)

- Opportunities for additional DEI training
- Existing gender diversity within Village staff
- Support of Village leadership
- Existing partnership with other community organizations
- Existing and potential collaborations with Not-for-Profits and others
- Diversity within the CRC and diversity of perspective
- Having a space to engage in open and honest DEI conversations (e.g. Library initiatives and programs)
- Library's efforts (e.g. new translation device)
- Large number of refugee groups within the Village
- Call to action from varying districts/organizations to amplify voices
- Village Proclamation No. 19-04
- LGBTQ+ Proclamation
- Interest in the community to serve on the CRC
- Number of participants in DEI efforts

Suggestions

Participants identified 18 suggested areas of focus and categorized the suggestions into four primary areas. Each suggestion is listed individually within its identified category, even if duplicated:

Village Policy & Training

- Identify existing diversity within Village departments
- Conduct DEI training for all Village leaders (staff and elected/appointed officials)
- Incorporate DEI in all Village processes
- Review the Village Code with a DEI lens
- Engage in intentional outreach to diversity Boards, Commissions and other organizations

Create Awareness & Educate

- Public awareness
- Use sports and fitness opportunities
- Community suggestions through anonymous collection
- Ensure communication to all groups
- Honest/authentic education in schools
- Community calendar
- Develop inclusive communication campaign about who DEI represents

Community Outreach

- Welcome more diverse businesses
- Festival of cultures
- Hold Commission meetings outside of Civic Center

Attainable & Inclusive Housing

- Affordable housing
- Offer affordable housing
- [Promote existing] food distribution and health services

Prioritization

Each participant was asked to prioritize the four identified categories by designation their 1st priority (green dot), second priority (yellow dot) and third priority (red dot). A summary of the results is included below.



Next Steps

There was strong consensus amongst the participants that the CRC should focus its initial efforts on reviewing, evaluating and making recommendations on existing Village policies and regulations. This includes encouraging and identifying additional DEI training for Village staff and officials. Collectively, there was also consensus that creating awareness around DEI issues and educating the public on DEI related matters should be the second priority of the CRC. Community outreach and supporting the provision of attainable and inclusive housing were ranked as lower priorities for the CRC at this time. The participants stressed that this did not mean these two items were not of importance, simply that they did not see them as the most pressing issues facing the CRC at this time.

Identifying a Focus

The CRC will need to decide how to balance these priorities moving forward. Will the CRC focus its time and efforts exclusively on the top priority – Village Policy and Training? Does the CRC prefer to pursue both its first and second priorities simultaneously? Should progress be made toward all four priorities to varying degrees? The CRC should collectively agree in which areas they will focus their efforts over the coming year.

Articulating Outcomes

Once the CRC has identified the areas in which it will focus its efforts, the group should then strive to articulate the outcomes it would like to achieve. What exactly is the CRC hoping to accomplish in each of the focus areas? How will the CRC know if they have accomplished the desired outcome?

Action Steps

With the focus area and desired outcomes identified, the CRC may then wish to develop specific action steps to guide them forward. These actions steps should be crafted with the desired outcome in mind and should clearly outline what needs to be accomplished. What needs to be done, by whom and by what target date should be clearly identified.

Hi Mark,
Hope you're having a great week!

Following up on our conversation at last Thursday's CRC meeting, here are some rudimentary starting points for a (hopefully easy) V1 system to highlight the cultural and diverse engagement opportunities within the village. Obviously, we can tweak as needed depending on village policy, CRC decisions, and other factors:

- Community Relations Commission page (is [this](#) the correct page?) serves as a central point for upcoming events.
- CRC creates standard / guideline for a lowest common denominator requirements to be considered for inclusion on the calendar. Some suggestions: NFPs, governmental agencies, community organizations, churches, schools, library, etc. that are hosting events that fall under the [DEI Policy](#) will be included.
 - Perhaps we can be intentional about inviting group leaders to our meetings to introduce themselves. Those who show they have a deep passion and initiative aligned with the CRC can get automatic inclusion for all future events into our calendar.
- A deadline for event submission is the end of the month. Organizations can email the Village for inclusion in the agenda for review. Each event is reviewed by CRC at the meeting, approved or denied posting, and then added to the calendar by the 15th of the month to the website. (I would expect this process to take a bit of time on the front end, but once a system gets put into place, these shouldn't take more than a few minutes of meeting time.)
- Whomever maintains the CRC website would be tasked with adding a text-only section that would chronologically list approved events.
- Once a V1 system is in place, we can ask each of the commissioners to connect with local organizations and communicate that the Village of GE is ready to promote events that celebrate DEI initiatives.
 - We can also ask each of the commissioners to share the page on relevant social channels.

I'm not sure what next steps are, but I'm happy to pass this back and forth with you if it's appropriate before our next meeting. Otherwise, we can also discuss further in June.

Thanks!

Warmly,
Mari Luangrath-Ullrick (she/her)



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among youth 10-14, 3rd leading cause among those aged 15-24, and 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S; and

WHEREAS, 46% of those who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition, and far more may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth experience suicidal thoughts at a 45% rate; and

WHEREAS; the pain of suicide on family and friends of the deceased are profound and life-altering; and

WHEREAS, the public would benefit from further dissemination of education about the warning signs of suicide, including excessive worry, problems concentrating, avoiding friends and social activities, inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily stress; and

WHEREAS, the public would gain extremely valuable tools by learning of the tools and resources available to combat suicide, including the new 988 national hotline or texting 'NAMI' to the National Association for the Mentally Ill text line, 741-741; and

WHEREAS, September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the problem to reduce stigmatization of this topic and inspire hope and share vital information with people affected by suicide and in the goal of prevention of suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK SENAK, President of the Village of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, on behalf of the Village Board, do hereby declare the month of September, 2022, as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and urge all Glen Ellyn citizens to learn warning signs and crisis response tools in our community.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
ATTEST:

VILLAGE CLERK

DATE

Research: NAMI.org