



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
September 1, 2022
7:06PM

Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 306

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

Date: September 1, 2022
Called to Order: 7:02 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:49 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairman	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Bill Enright	Commissioner	Present
Tauya Forst	Commissioner	Absent
Michelle Roman-Garcia	Commissioner	Present
Kim Thomas	Commissioner	Present
Sumaiya Syed	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	Present
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	Absent
Dave McDonald	Park District Liaison	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Present
Dawn Bussey	Library Executive Director	Present
Sophie Kenney	Library Liaison	Present
Public Present:		
Shaiska Malia	Glen Ellyn Resident	
Bill Donofrio	Naperville Resident	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The September 1, 2022 regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairman Irwin at 7:02 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Chairman Irwin welcomes Grant Paplauskas as the new Communications Coordinator and staff liaison to the CRC. She asks Paplauskas if he can add the CRC to the agenda of the October 24 Village Board meeting. She would like to have time to let the board know what the CRC is working on. She also requests the village board approve the DEI Lens Policy. Staff Liaison Paplauskas will check with Village Manager Franz on the above requests.

Chairman Irwin reminds the CRC the importance of attending the CRC meetings so a quorum is present. She states she will start the CRC meetings on time and if a quorum is not present she will hold off on action items until there is a quorum.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2022

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2022, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Roman-Garcia

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Syed

RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Staff Liaison report* – Communications Coordinator Paplauskas reports the U.S Bank site will be developed into a park. The streetscape is going well. The first phase is nearly complete. The art instillation at the Taylor Street Tunnel will begin soon. Public Works is working on removing the anti-graffiti from the tunnel. The village board is working on a Suicide Awareness Proclamation.

2. *Park District Liaison report* – Dave McDonald reports the Village and Park District are working on the development of a park at the U.S. Bank site. The Park District finished up a successful season of summer camps. We continue to have our food and blood drives. This is the last weekend for Sunset pool. The referendum did pass and there are many projects we are working on for completion in 2025. We continue to work with the school districts regarding our financial aid scholarships.

3. *Library Liaison report* – Assistant Director Kenney reports that the library has started a community cupboard that has free items such as diapers, socks, ponchos and various other items. The items are free for anyone to take. The library supplies the items

through donations. There is a wish list on Amazon for those who want to donate. The most popular items are socks and diapers. We have a social worker intern from the Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Services that is at the library from 9:00-5:00 for anyone who might need support. Appointments can be made from 9:00-12:00 and 1:00. The balance of the time slots is held for walk-ins. We will continue to offer this service through December. Dawn Bussey is looking into grant opportunities to extend this service. The summer reading program concluded on August 31. There was a lot of participation and we met our goal of 1000 readers.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Director Bussey introduces Shaiska Malia and Bill Donofrio who has worked together on Cultural events and would like to offer their assistance to the Glen Ellyn CRC. Malia states she is a Glen Ellyn resident and is the DEI Chair for the Naperville Chamber of Commerce. Donofrio states he has worked on the Naperville Heritage Festival. He adds when putting these events together it is very important to include the businesses in the community. The more businesses and community involvement, the more successful the event will be. He adds he is happy to help guide the CRC if they are looking to do a Cultural event. Paplauskas adds the village does not organize these events, but if the CRC works with the Chamber and the Alliance, the CRC will have a better chance of having a festival with their support.

E. COMMISSION PRIORITY REVIEW AND ACTION DISCUSSION

1. CRC Prioritization Summary Report Review – The CRC reviews the report. Chairman Irwin asks the CRC if the Prioritization categories are what we want to focus on. The categories are as follows:

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 an 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 service

The CRC agrees that outreach and a resource guide are priority items. The CRC discusses holding future meetings at different locations to increase community outreach. Director Bussey adds you can also bring in speakers to try and gain some outreach at your meetings. Student Commissioner Syed suggests structuring the speakers around a certain day of the month such as Indigenous Day. Director Bussey states she can provide contact information for the Soaring & Trickster Organizations. Student Commissioner Syed offers to contact them to see if they would be interested in speaking at one of the CRC meetings. Chairman Irwin asks Staff Liaison Paplauskas to add to next month's agenda – Build out schedule of speakers by month.

F. REVIEW SUICIDE AWARENESS PROCLAMATION

1. The CRC reviews the proclamation and suggests the following changes:
 - Change #3 to: WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth experience suicidal thoughts at a rate of 45% and.
 - Remove #4 - WHEREAS; the pain of suicide on family and friends of the deceased are profound and life-altering; and.
 - Add DuPage County statistics to #6 - 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

G. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Forst and seconded by Commissioner Roman-Garcia. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison