



Agenda
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations Commission
Thursday, December 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.

Due to the current statewide mandate, those in attendance at Village Board & Commission meetings are required to wear a mask. Masks are available at all meeting locations.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Review of Minutes**
 - 1) November 2022 Community Relations Commission Minutes
- D. Commission Liaison Reports**
- E. Audience Participation**
- F. Commission Action Discussion**
 - 1) Position on Attainable Housing
 - 2) DEI Resource Guide
 - 3) Cultural Partnerships
 - 4) Program Planning
- G. Next Meeting - January 12, 2023**
- H. Adjourn**



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022
7:06PM

Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 306

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

Date: November 10, 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	Absent
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	Present
Kelli Christiansen	Trustee Liaison	Present
Dave McDonald	Park District Liaison	Present
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	Present
Dawn Bussey	Library Executive Director	Present
Public Present:		
Clara Hughes	Glen Ellyn Resident	
Joyce Hothan	Glen Ellyn Resident	
Julie Evans	Glen Ellyn Resident	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The November 10, 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.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2022

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2022, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Enright

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Thomas

RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Christiansen reports Main Street has been paved and brick pavers will be installed. The village board approved a special use petition for an Aesthethician on Pennsylvania. The people who run Parks and Oak will be expanding. We are in budget season. We had our first reading of the budget on Monday. The second reading will be take place on December 5. The comprehensive plan should be completed early 2023. Both the DEI policy and DEI lens will go into the comprehensive plan. The Native American Pow Wow will take place at the fairgrounds this weekend.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – Park District Liaison McDonald reports we will be having our turkey trot on Thanksgiving. We will be giving away turkeys and there will also be prizes for the best dressed. December 4 -Toys for Tots at Ackerman. Free Ackerman (a free week) will take place in January. Polar Plaza – there will be programming and events that will be happening there. In January we will also have enrollment for seniors for free tax service through AARP. The program will begin in February.

3. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey reports we had our Halloween event with 650 attendees of all ages. The event went well. We did have an incident that I wanted to make this commission aware of. We received a call from an attendee the Monday following an event. This person was upset because she and her children overheard a couple using a racial slur at the event. Her children had never heard the word before and they were asking her what it meant. The library is a public space and we are up against free speech. We will be having some training on how to handle situations like this where free speech is involved. Commissioner Roman-Garcia adds we've had a situation like this at our school and we have created a free speech space on campus. That's how we handled protecting free speech. Bussey adds we can address behavior, but we are not able to address words. This is hard for library staff because we want to

protect and defend, but we are a public space. Our board is having our retreat on Saturday and I am sure we will be addressing this.

The library is applying for the 2025 Human Migration Exhibit. There will only be 15 libraries that will be able to have this exhibit. It would be great if the CRC can partner with us on this program. We will have a better chance of getting the exhibit if we can attach the CRC's support to the application.

Commissioner Enright motions to partner with the library for the Human Migration Exhibit; Commissioner Thomas seconds the motion.

MOTION TO PARTNER WITH THE LIBRARY FOR THE HUMAN MIGRATION EXHIBIT IN 2025

MOTION BY: Commissioner Enright

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Thomas

RESULT: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

4. *Staff Report* - Communications Coordinator Paplauskas reports the tunnel mural is currently being worked on. There will be a town hall on December 3 - there are 5 candidates running for library trustee and 3 candidates running for the village board. The lighting of the tree will take place the day after Thanksgiving at 6:00 p.m.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Julie Evans states she is an advocate for affordable assessable supportive housing needs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and others with different abilities. She states it is important for these individuals to live as independently as possible, thrive and continue to contribute to their community. It is important to understand the needs of these residents and include them as a group in need, include supportive housing as a part of the Roosevelt/Taft redevelopment plan, include people with disabilities and their family members in decision making about supportive housing. As an advocate I also work with promoting the national disability inclusive employment within Glen Ellyn. We have reached out to businesses to help. The village did a proclamation to assist with this effort. Several businesses within Glen Ellyn are employing or offering job training opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This is an ongoing need. I am happy to be a resource to the CRC.

Clara Hughes states the formation of the Community Relations Commission with its focus on diversity, equity and inclusion was a great step toward understanding how to best serve the community of residents and creating policies and programs designed to help and respect the most vulnerable in our community. I was captured by the last line of prose of Maya Angelou's poem Humanity. I note the obvious differences between each sort and type, but we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike. I have been concerned about the lack of diversity in housing, not just in Glen Ellyn but all over

DuPage County. I want to take 3 minutes to share what has been on my heart and mind because I know you will listen. At some point the American dream to own a home became the goal for so many leaving behind those who did not have the resources to buy a home. Rental property has a stigma of less than here if that property offers below market rents there is even more stigma surrounding it. I dream of a day when acknowledge the obvious differences in people's income potential and provide below market apartments for those who are not able to attain buying a home. A day when we stop using the term "affordable" with all of its baggage and we simply welcome our neighbors who will live in apartments. Everyone needs a place to call home in order to thrive whether it is a house, condominium or an apartment. Paraphrasing While our income levels may be different we are more alike my friends, than we are unlike one.

Chairman Irwin thanks Evans and Hughes and states we appreciate all you are doing and for coming here tonight to educate us.

E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION IMPACT REPORT

1. Community Relations Commissioner Impact Report – Chairman Irwin reports we presented to the village board on October 24 an update on what the CRC has been working on. Staff Liaison Paplauskas adds Chairman Irwin did a nice job presenting to the board. Trustee Christiansen adds the board was grateful for the update and will look to the other commissions to do the same. Irwin adds if you would like to see the presentation there is a recording of the meeting on the village website.

F. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. DEI Resource Guide – Commissioner Roman-Garcia reports she started to draft the guide and has written about 8 pages. This is a big endeavor and will require more dialog with the commission. She states she will share the draft document with the CRC via a google document so the CRC can review and give their input and changes.

2. Position on Attainable Housing – Chairman Irwin reports Commissioner Thomas and Forst put together the *Glen Ellyn Community Relations Commissioner Position of support for Roosevelt and Taft Avenue properties for Attainable and Inclusive Housing Statement* (see attached). We would like to finalize this by the December 5 village board meeting. The CRC reviewed the statement. Commissioner Thomas states we have work to do on what affordable and attainable means. How do we get buy in for attainable housing? Commissioner Roman-Garcia states we need to dispel the myths or reframe with difference language. Trustee Christiansen adds we need to educate the people who do not want to be educated. Chairman Irwin states we need to change the section on area median income to average median public service wages. This will be a strong argument. We need the people who need affordable housing (teachers, police, fire) Chairman Irwin asks Commissioner Thomas to keep her personal story in the statement. She asks if she and Commissioner Forst can make the changes and asks if she would consider going before the board to share her story when presenting the CRC's position of support for attainable and inclusive housing. Commissioner Thomas states yes she will share her story. Chairman Irwin thanks Commissioner Thomas.

G. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Roman-Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ali. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The next meeting – December 1, 2022. Director Bussey requests that an agenda item be added to set dates for upcoming programs in 2023.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison

Glen Ellyn Community Relations Commission's Position of Support for Roosevelt and Taft Avenue properties for Essential and Inclusive Housing Statement

Personal Account

Commissioner Kim Thomas' personal experience has been the crux of what our work here on this commission is about. She states, "when my children and I began looking for 'affordable housing' in Glen Ellyn, we were met with pushback, fear, and overall resistance. Had it not been for me qualifying for Section 8, as well as the help of good friends, I would not be a part of this community today. This is a wonderful community. I attended school in this community, attending Glenbard South, and I had it a bit easier than my own kids do now. I had two parents that worked hard to keep me in this community and these school districts. Unfortunately, my kids are not as lucky, and there are a lot of families in this community whose situations are similar. The amazing things that everyone loves about Glen Ellyn and what they want to have in Glen Ellyn, is what most people would want in a town to live in."

Background

According to the official website of the Village of Glen Ellyn, its comprehensive plan, and strategic plan, Glen Ellyn strives to manifest Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in both word and deed. Specifically, the website underscores this commitment to "be an inclusive and equitable community, that embraces and champions diversity, and welcomes, respects, and engages all people in all aspects of Village life, including employment, commerce, housing, recreation, faith practices, access to resources, and civic engagement" (*Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, n.d.).

Additionally, the official website of the Village of Glen Ellyn states that the Community Relations Commission's (CRC) Intent and Purpose is "to make recommendations to the Village Board to create and support policies, programs, events, actions, and communications that guide the community toward this goal" (*Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*, n.d.). The Consumer Price Index (CPI), generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (n.d.) which measures inflation notes that the single largest component of the CPI is the cost of housing. Glen Ellyn may realize its goal of diverse, equitable, and inclusiveness by seizing a unique opportunity to address rising housing costs, housing insecurity and housing poverty. This realization begins with approving the Roosevelt and Taft Avenue properties for an Essential and Inclusive Housing development.

As a result, the CRC submits this enclosed Position of Support for Roosevelt and Taft Avenue properties for an Essential and Inclusive Housing development.

What is essential housing?

A universal definition for essential housing does not exist; however, it is the intention of the CRC that we provide a reference for essential housing as used within this document. Essential housing refers to housing options located within the area in which you work, shop, recreate, worship, and engage. Essential housing typically ***begins*** with those deemed essential workers including, but not limited to, teachers/educators (including support staff), medical workers (including those who work within environmental services), law enforcement, retail workers, day care workers, waitstaff/servers, etc., (Easterly, 2021). Additionally, essential housing may include housing for those who require additional services, such as medical, intellectual, developmental, and/or physical challenges. This definition allows for the necessary inclusive and

welcoming environment advocated by the village as indicated above in the Background statement.

Essential housing is more than the *mere* physical structure. It also provides residents living in the property reasonable access to centrally located housing, public transportation, educational institutions (including trade and vocation schooling), grocery stores, health care, and other essential components of Glen Ellyn living. Furthermore, essential housing must include rents of 30% or less of the essential workers or essential populations' income to provide an equitable option. Here income indicates all monthly resources for monies including, but not limited to, earned and received income. This approach addresses the pronounced gap identified between housing options and essential income.

Why is there a need for essential housing in Glen Ellyn?

For more than four decades, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has addressed the gap between essential housing and income. HUD consistently notes that individuals are housing burdened when their housing cost accounts for more than 30% of the household income. According to AEW, "a household that spends more than 30% of its income on housing is described as housing cost burdened while a household spending more than 50% of income on housing is regarded as extremely housing cost burdened" (*Essential housing*, 2021). The CRC submits that Glen Ellyn advances and lives up to its commitment of being a welcoming and inclusive community by creating options for those work and serve in Glen Ellyn to be able to reside in Glen Ellyn, without risking becoming housing cost burdened or extremely housing cost burdened.

Therefore, the CRC submits this statement of support for Essential and Inclusive Housing, as we agree that essential housing exists when the household members can live without sacrificing their basic needs such as groceries, medicine, health services, transportation, and other necessities; knowing that housing is only inclusive if the household members can live without bounds but receive supports to be as self-sufficient as appropriate.

The CRC further urges consideration of Essential and Inclusive Housing development at the Roosevelt Road/Taft Avenue property.

References

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*. Government | Glen Ellyn, IL. (n.d.). Retrieved November 8, 2022, from <https://www.glenellyn.org/27/Government>
- Essential housing*. AEW. (2021, April 1). Retrieved November 28, 2022, from <https://www.aew.com/research/essential-housing>
- Easterly, J. (2021, August 10). *Identification of essential critical infrastructure workers ... - CISA*. Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. Retrieved November 29, 2022, from https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_1.pdf
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Consumer price index (CPI) databases*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved November 28, 2022, from <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>