



Agenda
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations Commission
Thursday, January 12, 2023
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Clayton Room

Meeting Procedures Statement

Visitors are most welcome to attend all public meetings and can find copies of the Agenda online at www.glenellyn.org prior to the meeting. Any individual with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact the Village of Glen Ellyn ADA Coordinator, 630-469-5000, at least five (5) business days in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Review of Minutes**
 - 1) November Community Relations Commission Minutes
- D. Commission Liaison Reports**
 - 1) Trustee Report
 - 2) Park District Report
 - 3) Library Report
 - 4) School District Report
 - 5) Staff Report
- E. Audience Participation**
- F. Commission Action Discussion**
 - 1) DEI Resource Guide
 - 2) Cultural Partnerships
 - 3) Program Planning
- G. Next Meeting - February 2, 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