



Minutes  
Village of Glen Ellyn  
Community Relations  
Regular Meeting  
May 4, 2023  
7:00P  
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Clayton Room

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

**Date:** May 4, 2023  
**Called to Order:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 9:00 p.m.

**MEMBER ATTENDANCE:**

|                       |                      |                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sania Irwin           | Chairperson          | Present                        |
| Mir Ali               | Commissioner         | Present - Remote participation |
| Bill Enright          | Commissioner         | Absent                         |
| Tauya Forst           | Commissioner         | Present                        |
| Michelle Roman-Garcia | Commissioner         | Present                        |
| Nancy McKee           | Commissioner         | Present                        |
| Kim Thomas            | Commissioner         | Present                        |
| Sumaiya Syed          | Student Commissioner | Absent                         |
|                       |                      |                                |

**Also Present:**

|                    |                            |         |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------|
|                    |                            |         |
| Grant Paplauskas   | Communications Coordinator | Present |
| Kelli Christiansen | Trustee Liaison            | Absent  |
| Dawn Bussey        | Library Executive Director | Present |
| Elisa Pollina      | Recording Secretary        | Absent  |
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|                    |                            |         |

**Public Present:**

|         |                      |  |
|---------|----------------------|--|
| Christa | Exodus World Service |  |
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### **A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The May 4, 2023 regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairperson Irwin at 7:00 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Commissioner McKee motions to allow Commission Ali to participate remotely in the CRC meeting; Commissioner Forst seconds the motion.

MOTION TO ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR COMMISSIONER ALI

MOTION BY: Commissioner McKee

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Forst

RESULT: Unanimous

Chairperson Irwin reports that there was a bomb threat last Thursday and yesterday at GBW High School. Last week's threat is still under investigation. The fact that this is happening is a concern. Chairperson Irwin reads the police statement to the CRC. She states we all must recognize that whatever the tone our society has created, it has generated this type of behavior. There is no place for behavior like this. Library Liaison Bussey adds there are already high levels of anxiety amongst our teens and these incidents only heighten them. Commissioner Forst adds there needs to be a community response to these incidents.

### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 6, 2023 MEETING**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 6, 2023 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Thomas

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKee

RESULT: Unanimous

### **C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS**

1. *Trustee Report* – Communications Coordinator Paplauskas presents Trustee Christiansen's report, he states the housing steering committee has met twice to discuss draft survey findings and results; these will be shared at a public meeting on May 31. There is no update on the hotel site. The final edits are being made to the Comprehensive Plan.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

3. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey reports the library had our 25th Anniversary celebration event this past Friday. It was financially successful. Our DEI committee met and decided to change the name to the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) committee. Accessibility is a very important issue for us at the library. We have the Human Library event taking place on Saturday and we still have some openings.

4. *Staff Report* - Communications Coordinator Paplauskas reports the CBD Streetscape is going well. The village is preparing for the upcoming Warhol exhibit.

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION**

1. DEI Resource Guide – Commissioner Roman-Garcia reports she used the Naperville Guide as a framework for the GE DEI Resource Guide. She states we will need to spend some time reviewing the document and its links. She adds we need to build some momentum around the resources. I am having a difficult time finding some quick tips for this guide. Commissioner Forst states there are self-starters on YouTube that can assist with this effort. She will see what she can find and will share it with the CRC. Commissioner Roman-Garcia adds it would be nice to include images to the document to make it more interesting. Commissioner Thomas offers to share some images she has that could work with this document. Commissioner Roman-Garcia states she will send the current DEI document to the CRC so they can provide their feedback.

2. CRC Calendar/Program Planning/Partnerships – The CRC discusses upcoming events.

2023-08 - Salsa/Dance Event with Glen Ellyn Park District. Commissioner Forst reports Jeanie from the park district responded regarding the Salsa event. She states the summer park district events are already planned. They already have events scheduled through August. She asked if we can schedule the event for perhaps mid to late September or October. Commissioner Roman-Garcia states September would be good because it is Latin Heritage month. Commissioner Forst states perhaps we could do this event at COD if available, I will check. She adds, I also reached out to 5 different dance companies and one company, Fred Astaire, responded and might be interested in participating. Toda Madre responded and stated they would need to check with their chef and would need to see if they have enough staff to participate in the event. They did ask if they would be the only food vendor. The CRC discusses using the pavilion at COD for this event. Commissioner Garcia adds we should look to do this event after the Warhol exhibit and around September 15. Commissioner Forst states she will check with COD and will report back to the CRC.

2023-09 - Refugee Experience Simulation with Exodus World Service. (Intent to hold event confirmed, details outstanding.) Christa from Exodus World Service states the mission of our organization is to mobilize and support refugees in the surrounding areas. We want to serve refugees by connecting volunteers. We want to help with their physical and social needs. We also do a lot of education. We would love to partner with the CRC. Christa shares the story simulation with the CRC which is a hands on education simulation. It seeks to bring us one step closer to empathize with what

refugees go through. In the simulation we want to bring people into the experience. We are asking people to thoughtfully consider what it would feel like to be a refugee. On the practical side there are 5 modules in the simulation. Each module can hold 50 people. We encourage middle school and high school and up to go through the simulation. The basic flow of simulation is to place participants in a family group and they will be given a role and will have to make decisions for the role. Once the simulation is complete we get together and discuss the experience. We bring all the materials and equipment for the experience. We do not receive federal funding, we rely on donations. Forst states we could register people to take part in the event and in doing that we would need to have a disclaimer so it is not triggering to some people. We would need to decide on a space. Chairperson Irwin states perhaps we can partner with COD on their event and have our own event Spring 2024. Forst will let Chairperson Irwin know when the COD meeting will take place.

2023-11 - Event in partnership with Native American Organization(s). Chairperson Irwin will reach out to Trustee Thompson about this event and partnership. Commissioner Forst states she will reach out to her contact at COD to see what their partnership is.

#### **F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE**

Adjournment- Commissioner Roman-Garcia motions and Commissioner Thomas seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting – June 1, 2023.

**Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary**

**Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison**