



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Special Meeting
September 12, 2023
7:00P
Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: September 12, 2023
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Absent
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Present
Molly McGinnis	Commissioner	Present
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Robert Moorehead	Commissioner	Present
Kim Thomas	Commissioner	Absent
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	Present
Donna Jean Simon	Trustee Liaison	Present
Dawn Bussey	Library Executive Director	Present
Steve Thompson	Village Trustee	Present
Public Present:		
Jessica Ponce	Midwest SOARRING	
Vicky Fitzmaurice	Midwest SOARRING	
Christine Wilson	Citizens of Glen Ellyn Preservation	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The September 12, 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.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 1, 2023 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING AS AMENDED

MOTION BY: Commissioner Moorehead

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKee

RESULT: Unanimous

C. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS – Chairperson Irwin extends a warm welcome to new commissioners: Maria Balli, a College freshman at DePaul University; Molly McGinnis long-time Glen Ellyn Resident and a member of the Library Board of Trustees; and Robert Moorehead, Professor of Sociology at College of DuPage. The CRC welcomes the new commissioners.

D. COMMISSION OVERVIEW

1. Intent & Purpose – Chairperson Irwin states the intent and purpose of the Community Relations Commission is to make sure that the Village of Glen Ellyn strives and remains a community that is welcoming to those who work, live, play and visit.
2. Categories of Effort (Policy & Training Awareness & Outreach, Essential Housing). Chairperson Irwin announces that in the upcoming year, our focus will be on community outreach. It's time to bring our efforts directly to the community.

E. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Simon provides an update, indicating that the Village Board is actively seeking ways to support the businesses on the north side of town. In the past month, a meeting was held with these businesses, which have been adversely affected by the CBD Streetscape work. They are currently in need of financial assistance due to a significant drop in downtown traffic, with a reduction of 75%, resulting in business impacts ranging from 20% to 70%. Trustee Simon encourages everyone to consider supporting these businesses.

Furthermore, the village is presently engaged in the budgeting process for 2024. Trustee Simon expresses support for this commission's budget, having advocated for it with the Village President and Village Manager. She remains committed to backing the initiatives of this commission and hopes to see your budget request approved.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

3. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey reports on the success of this year's summer

reading program, highlighting that the program met its reading goals, resulting in a generous donation of \$2,000 to the food pantry. Additionally, the library contributed over 450 lbs. of birthday bag supplies to the pantry and collected \$261.00 through change receptacles, all of which was greatly appreciated by the food pantry.

Furthermore, the library collaborated with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide lunches for children aged 18 and under. Throughout the summer, they served lunches for 49 days, totaling 845 meals. Additionally, 691 snack packs (drawstring bags with shelf-stable items) were distributed. Working with the Northern Illinois Food Bank presented challenges as all food had to be consumed on-site for food safety reasons, making it difficult to inform children that they couldn't take any food home. The snack packs provided a valuable solution by allowing them to take food home.

4. *Staff Report* – Staff Paplauskas announces several upcoming events and initiatives: There will be a meeting on September 19 at the Police Department to discuss the improvements at Panfish Park, a project the Park District is actively working on, as well as updates about the Village Links. The meeting will take place from 5:00-7:00pm. The McKee House event is scheduled for September 23 at 12:30 for the signing. The village extends an invitation for everyone to participate in this event. In the coming weeks, if you are a Glen Ellyn resident, you may receive a community survey. The village is seeking feedback from a select group of residents, and you will also have the option to provide voluntary feedback if you choose to do so. The website for this initiative is still in the process of being set up, and postcards for mailings will be sent out this week. The results of this survey are expected to be available sometime in November.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

G. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. Elect Chairperson Pro-Tem- Chairperson Irwin suggests the commission appoint a Chairperson Pro Tem in case she is unable to attend a Community Relations Commission meeting.

Chairperson Irwin motions to appoint Commissioner McKee to serve as Pro Tem through January 2024. Commissioner Moorehead seconds the motion.

MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER MCKEE TO SERVE AS PRO TEM THROUGH JANUARY 2024

MOTION BY: Commissioner McKee

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moorehead

RESULT: Unanimous

2. Civility Pledge – Chairperson Irwin reports that she and Trustee Simon recently met to deliberate on the idea of a civility pledge, noting that several communities have successfully implemented similar pledges. She proposes discussing the recommendation of adopting a pledge to be displayed at various meetings. Chairperson Irwin seeks feedback from the CRC and requests that if everyone is in agreement with this concept,

a motion from the commission be made.

Commissioner Moorehead motions to recommend to the Village Board the adoption of the Civility Pledge (*I pledge to promote civility by listening, being respectful of others, acknowledging that we are all striving to support and improve our community and understanding that we each may have different ideas for achieving that objective*) and for it to be included in the rules of engagement at public meetings.

Commissioner McGinnis seconds the motion.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE BOARD THE ADOPTION OF THE CIVILITY PLEDGE

MOTION BY: Commissioner Moorehead

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McGinnis

RESULT: Unanimous

3. Programs/Events/Activities

- Juneteenth Proclamation with Village Board – Chairperson Irwin states the proclamation was approved on June 26 by the Village Board. The proclamation was read into record at the Village Board meeting and it is also published on the CRC website.
- Intro/Outreach at Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn – Chairperson Irwin states she met with the Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn last week to discuss the commission and our mission. It was a great discussion.
- 2023-09-14 Intro/Outreach at Glen Ellyn Public Library Book Club – Chairperson Irwin reports the commission will be taking part in the book club discussion at the library on Thursday.
- 2023-11-16 Refugee Journey Simulation in Partnership with College of DuPage, Chairperson Irwin states there will be 4 sessions – 11:00, 12:00, 2:30 and 5:00 pm. She encourages everyone to participate in one of the sessions.
- 2024-02-23 Afro-Caribbean Dance and Cultural Event – Chairperson Irwin states she met with Shannon Delgado at the Latin American Studies Committee at COD and the plan is to do this event on February 23. There will be a DJ, dance instructor and food at this event.
- Indigenous Cultural Partnership Exploration with Midwest SOARRING Foundation – Trustee Thompson provides an introduction to the McKee House project, indicating his involvement in it. He introduces Vicki Fitzmauras and Jessica Ponce from the Midwest SOARRING Foundation, who will explain the project, as well as Christine Wilson from the Citizens of Glen Ellyn Preservation, who is part of the McKee House Steering Committee. Thompson explains that they will discuss the current developments at the house and the upcoming event on Saturday. Ponce states the Midwest SOARRING Foundation, which stands for Save Our Ancestors' Remains & Resources Indigenous Network Group, originated nearly 30 years ago with an initiative to preserve a burial mound in New Lenox, Will County. It evolved from this grassroots effort, growing into an inclusive organization guided by indigenous principles. Churchill Woods, a historical site, was once home to one of the last Pow Wows in the area and holds a significant collection of artifacts currently under county care. The McKee House is slated to

become a museum to house these artifacts. The Autumn Equinox Event is scheduled to take place in front of the McKee House on September 23. Trustee Thompson notes that a signing ceremony will be a central part of this event. Federal, state, county, forest, park, and library representatives have been invited to attend. During the ceremony at 12:30, DuPage Forest Preserve President Daniel Hebreard, Glen Ellyn President Mark Senak, and President Joseph Standing Bear will sign agreements transferring the building to the SOARRING committee. Following the ceremony, the Equinox Event will follow.

Staff Liaison Paplauskas states as part of the ceremony President Senak will read this proclamation: *Whereas the Village of Glen Ellyn recognizes the importance of honoring and celebrating the historical and cultural contributions made by local indigenous native American people and whereas the Midwest SOARRING Foundation was formed to offer assistance and educate the public about American Indian cultural issues and whereas both the Village of Glen Ellyn and DuPage Forest Preserve had sought a way to preserve and restore the historic McKee House property and whereas these entities have come together to form a lease agreement to utilize the McKee House property and whereas together will create a native American cultural and environmental center thereby preserving the McKee House and therefore let it be resolved that the Village President and Trustees of the Village Board of Glen Ellyn recognize this agreement beginning Saturday, September 23, 2023 and on the day of the Fall Equinox urge all residents to celebrate this historic day for the Glen Ellyn community.*

Christine Wilson provides additional historical context, explaining that the McKee House is a product of the WPA (Work Progress Administration) program initiated during the 1930s to generate employment opportunities. Robert McKee was instrumental in spearheading this program, which involved the Civilian Conservation Corps workforce. They were tasked with constructing the McKee House at Churchill Woods. Robert McKee's granddaughter became aware of the house's potential demolition and engaged with various organizations to advocate for its preservation. Ultimately, this preservation initiative is the most suitable path forward for the project.

Trustee Thompson enthusiastically promotes the upcoming Pow Wow event scheduled for October 14-15. Having attended the event last year, he emphasizes its impressive nature. He expresses gratitude for the commission's participation and highlights that this meeting is ideal for providing regular updates on the McKee House project. Thompson encourages the SOARRING Foundation's active involvement in these meetings, seeing it as a valuable opportunity for collaborative engagement.

Chairperson Irwin states we look forward to learning more from the SOARRING Foundation as we move forward. Thank you.

4. Budget Proposal – Chairperson Irwin emphasizes that with our events now solidified, our commitment to actively support these initiatives is clearly outlined in the 2024 budget as well as the publication of the DEI Resource Guide. She requests the CRC to review and approve the 2024 budget (see attached budget).

Commissioner McKee motions to recommend the Village Board approve the budget as presented; Commissioner Moorehead seconds the motion.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE BOARD APPROVE THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED

MOTION BY: Commissioner McKee

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moorehead

RESULT: Unanimous

5. Consider Days/Months that are Recognized -- Chairperson Irwin states she and Trustee Simon discussed the recognition of specific days of the month. The following days have been identified as particularly significant to consider, For example (months): Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May), LGBTQ Pride Month (June), Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15), American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month (November) For example (days): Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday of January), Juneteenth (June 19), Indigenous Peoples Day (second Monday of October). Chairperson Irwin requests the CRC to review the list and share their feedback regarding whether we should proceed with proclamations for the Village Board. This matter will be included in the agenda for next month's meeting.
6. Community Relations Commission Impact Report – Chairperson Irwin informs the committee that we are scheduled to present the Impact Report on October 9 at the Village Board's meeting. Additionally, Trustee Thompson inquires if members of the CRC have received invitations to the Commission Recognition Event on October 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Village Links.

H. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McKee motions and Commissioner McGinnis seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting – October 5, 2023.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison