



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2023
7:00P
Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: October 5, 2023
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Molly McGinnis	Commissioner	Absent
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Robert Moorehead	Commissioner	Present
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Absent
Kim Thomas	Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	Present
Donna Jean Simon	Trustee Liaison	Present
Dawn Bussey	Library Executive Director	Present
Public Present:		
Victoria Fitzmaurice	SOARRING Foundation	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The October 5, 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 12, 2023 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING AS AMENDED

MOTION BY: Commissioner McKee

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Thomas

RESULT: Unanimous

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Simon reminds the commission that the Village Commission Recognition and Appreciation Open House will take place on Thursday October 12 at the Village Links in the Blue Heron Room at 5.30 PM. All commissioners and trustees are invited to attend and be acknowledged for their dedicated contributions and hard work.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

3. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey informs that preparations for the upcoming "World on the Move" exhibit, scheduled for next summer, are underway. The exhibit is slated for delivery no later than July 2, with a public debut expected on July 27. To complement the exhibit, the library is organizing various engaging programs, including the Refugee Simulation experience, showcasing several oversized masks, and featuring presentations by two professors focusing on migration and global movements. Additionally, the library plans to integrate "World on the Move" with the summer reading program.

4. *Staff Report* – Staff Liaison Paplauskas reports that the SOARRING Event at the McKee House was well attended, with the formal signing of the agreement. It was a great event for the entire community. The village is currently focused on finalizing the streetscape construction and reopen up Main Street by the end of the month. Our big initiative is to encourage people to return downtown to the business and restaurants. We are actively working on marketing campaigns to do that.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Vicki Fitzmaurice shared updates from her recent meeting with the Native American Student Committee at COD. She assured the commission of her commitment to exploring potential partnership opportunities for future events

arising from this meeting. Additionally, she highlighted the upcoming Pow Wow scheduled for next week on October 14th and 15th, beginning at 11:00 am.

E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. DEI Resource Guide - Chairperson Irwin states Commissioners Ali and Moorehead have volunteered to work on the draft guide that former Commissioner Roman-Garcia started. Commissioner Ali states he will connect with Commissioner Moorehead on the DEI Resource Guide.

2. Indigenous Cultural Partnership and Midwest SOARRING Foundation Collaboration – 2023-09-23 Autumnal Equinox Event in front of McKee House Recap - Vicki Fitzmaurice expressed gratitude on behalf of the SOARRING Foundation for the overwhelming community support received during the event, noting its success. Trustee Simon commended the ceremony and found the ideas presented for the McKee House impressive.

3. Consider Days/Months that are Recognized -- Chairperson Irwin inquired whether the CRC believes the list discussed last month should be reduced or expanded and how the commission intends to raise awareness about these significant dates within the community. 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).*

Trustee Simon suggested presenting the identified significant dates as educational pieces, providing both the date's historical context and its importance. Staff Liaison Paplauskas suggested not featuring these dates prominently on the main village page to avoid excluding any group, but proposed adding them to the CRC webpage. Trustee Simon agreed, emphasizing the need for the informative content. Commissioner Ali supported the idea, suggesting treating it purely as informational. Fitzmaurice suggested directing interested individuals to the Global Education Fair at COD on Tuesday, November 14, for engaging information. Chairperson Irwin confirmed that the dates of significance would be documented, with Commissioner McKee volunteering to craft the first statement for American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month (November). The CRC agreed to provide a pertinent article link for further insight.

4. Creating/Sharing Calendar of Events – Chairperson Irwin highlights the events held so far and those upcoming such as the Refugee Journey Simulation. She inquires on the best way to organize and promote these as official CRC-sponsored events. Staff Liaison Paplauskas proposes adding the events to the CRC website; he can add the provided write-ups to the website and feature the events in the newsletter.

5. Commission Webpage – Materials for consideration. Chairperson Irwin informs the Commission that many of their initiatives have been or will be posted on the CRC website, including the DEI Policy (already posted), DEI Lens, DEI Resource Guide (once

approved by the Commission), the 2023 October CRC Impact Report, and statements and proclamations. She seeks the CRC's agreement on these items and invites suggestions for additional content. The CRC agrees on the content. Commissioner Ali suggests adding event photos to the website, to which Staff Liaison Paplauskas confirms that photos can be posted on the CRC website.

Chairperson Irwin inquires about the process for posting on the Village Facebook page to Staff Liaison Paplauskas. Paplauskas explains that a post write-up should be sent to him, and the village will review and approve it for posting.

Chairperson Irwin reminds the CRC members to attend the upcoming Village Board meeting on Monday, October 9, at 7:00 pm in the Gallagan Board room for the presentation of the Impact Report.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner Moorehead motions and Commissioner Ali seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting – November 2, 2023.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison