



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
February 1, 2024
7:00PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: February 1, 2024
Called to Order: 7:03 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:58 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Molly McGinnis Knapke	Commissioner	Present
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Robert Moorehead	Commissioner	Present
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Present
Alisha Badie	Student Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	Present
Donna Jean Simon	Trustee Liaison	Present
Dawn Bussey	Library Executive Director	Present
David McDonald	Manager of Recreation Services GE Park District	Absent
Beth Clower	Community Services and Instruction Librarian	Present
Public Present:		
Michael Chavarria	Hope Fair Housing Center	
Vicky FitzMaurice	Midwest Soaring Foundation	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The February 1, 2024 regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairperson Irwin at 7:03 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 11, 2024 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner McKee

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ali

RESULT: Unanimous

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. Police Liaison Report– No report.

2. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Simon informs the commission that the budget has been approved by the board. She also notes that there have been no changes regarding the immigrants passing through Glen Ellyn. Chairperson Irwin adds that the CRC's statement on religious intolerance was presented to the Village Board on January 22. Following this presentation, we requested the Village Board to reaffirm and make a statement, which the Village Board and President Senak did.

3. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

4. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey introduces Beth Clower, Community Services and Instruction Librarian, who provides an update on the Community Cupboard at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. This cupboard, located in the lobby near the Library Services Desk, is a door-less cabinet containing free items for those in need. Thousands of socks, soap, and toothpaste have been given away since its inception. The cupboard is restocked 2-3 times daily. Sponsorship opportunities are available with a minimum donation of \$250 in cash or in kind. Accepted donation items include diapers, socks, soap, toothpaste and essential items not purchasable with SNAP cards. To fully stock the cupboard, it costs \$350-\$450. Scarce donates three times a year. Since its opening in late 2022, the community's need for the cupboard has only increased. For more information, visit the library website.

5. *Staff Report* – Staff Liaison Paplauskas updates the commission regarding the presentation made last Thursday to the League of Women Voters. He explains that Village President Senak mentioned during the presentation that they were pursuing an \$11 million grant for the migrants. However, it was clarified later that he was merely exploring the possibility of securing the grant. Trustee Simon adds that this discussion

happened during the early stages of the migrant situation, but unfortunately, the grant opportunity has since passed.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Vicky FitzMaurice from the Midwest Soaring Foundation updates the commission on upcoming events. She announces that the Spring Ceremony will take place on March 17 at 11:00 at the McKee House. Vicky mentions that promotion for this event has just begun. Additionally, she shares that they are in the initial stages of planning events for the upcoming year, aiming to host an event every other month.

Michael Chavarria from Hope Fair Housing Center provides an update on the organization's activities. Hope Fair Housing Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating housing discrimination across Illinois since 1968. He explains that individuals who experience discrimination can contact them for assistance, and their services are provided free of charge. The center is located in Wheaton. In the past year (2022-2023), they received the highest volume of complaints from Glen Ellyn, totaling 12 complaints related to race, income, and sexual orientation discrimination. He mentions that they are funded by tax dollars and recruit housing testers who act as undercover investigators. He notes that most complaints they receive pertain to rental properties. Chairperson Irwin expresses gratitude to Michael for the organization's efforts in combating housing discrimination.

E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. DEI Resource Guide – The CRC approves the DEI Resource Guide with updated font changes and deems it ready for posting on the website. They express interest in sharing the document with the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Alliance. Director Bussey will coordinate presentation dates with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Ali volunteers to present the DEI Resource Guide to the Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, Trustee Simon suggests distributing the guide to all businesses, and Staff Liaison Paplauskas proposes featuring an article in the village newsletter regarding this initiative.

2. Upcoming Events – Latin Dance Event - Commissioner Moorehead reports that he is currently in the process of obtaining a status update from COD regarding the event. The individual previously responsible for planning the event has left and now other individuals are finalizing the planning. Despite this, the event is still scheduled to take place. Commissioner Moorehead will continue to follow up and request a flyer or website link so Glen Ellyn can promote the event. Staff Liaison Paplauskas adds that an invoice for the village's expenses related to the event is also needed.

3. Recognition Month: Did You Know Write-up on Black History Month – Commissioner Badie shares the write-up on Black History Month that she prepared (see attached document). The CRC reviews and discusses the content of the document. Staff Liaison Paplauskas confirms that it will be included in next week's newsletter. Chairperson Irwin expresses gratitude to Commissioner Badie for her work on this piece.

4. Recognition Month: Pride Month Discussion - Chairperson Irwin updates the CRC on the recent village meeting where inquiries were made regarding Glen Ellyn's plans to celebrate Pride Month. The CRC has decided to include it on their calendar and will prepare a write-up accordingly. Chairperson Irwin also seeks suggestions on additional ways to celebrate this month.

Staff Liaison Paplauskas notes that the Village typically does not host events directly but rather partners with organizations that do. Suggestions are made to potentially collaborate with the Downtown Alliance or Chamber of Commerce. Director Bussey suggests highlighting existing events and considering future partnerships for next year. Trustee Simon proposes partnering with The Glen for a movie series, an idea supported by the CRC.

Commissioner Knapke volunteers to reach out to The Glen to explore partnership opportunities for Pride Month and other events.

5. Civility Pledge – How we use it – Chairperson Irwin inquires how the CRC should utilize the Civility Pledge (see attached). Commissioner Knapke proposes displaying it on the wall of every meeting room. Trustee Simon suggests incorporating it into the opening announcement at board meetings, as discussed with some trustees. Chairperson Irwin agrees to include it in the CRC's opening meeting announcements. Trustee Simon commits to discussing it with other trustees to facilitate its implementation.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke motions and Commissioner McKee seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next meeting – March 7, 2024.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison