



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
May 2, 2024
7:00PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: May 2, 2024
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:09 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Absent
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	Executive Director Glen Ellyn Library	Present
Public Present:		
Gabby Knapke	GBW Student – AP Government Class	
Rachel	COD Student	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The May 2, 2024 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 APRIL 4, 2024 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2024 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Quadri

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKee

RESULT: Unanimous

C. COMMISSION LIAISON INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Simon updated the commission on upcoming items on the trustee agenda. There is a workshop scheduled for June 17 to discuss the DEI resource guide. Trustee Simon emphasized the board's commitment to understanding the guide fully before rolling it out to the community. Additionally, the Civility Pledge has been included in the manager's report to the trustees. Efforts are underway to incorporate it into the introduction of all meetings.

Trustee Simon adds there is an increased presence of migrant buses arriving in Glen Ellyn. The frequency varies from week to week, but on average, we're seeing about 2 or 3 buses per week. The police department notifies trustees after the bus arrivals, which occur about 15 minutes before the train departs for Chicago. While the process is fairly straightforward with no reported incidents, it's worth noting that these buses are arriving from out of state. Not all passengers are destined for Chicago; some are met by individuals at our station. Churches continue to play a role in providing resources such as food, water, and cash as needed.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

3. *Library Liaison Report* – Director Bussey reported on the Refugee Journey Simulation, noting that while the turnout was less than stellar; all three sessions were attended by a total of 30 people. The first session had 23 attendees, followed by 2 at the second, and 5 at the final. Despite the lower attendance, feedback from participants was positive; with many expressing that they gained valuable insights from the experience. Additionally, Director Bussey announced that the World on the Move exhibit is scheduled to begin on July 27. Also, an interfaith panel discussion set for May 26 is progressing well, and preparations for the library's summer reading program, slated to begin in early June, are also underway.

4. *Staff Report* – No report

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Commissioner Quadri authored a "Did You Know" piece and included book recommendations in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. She mentions that working on this piece was enjoyable. The CRC reviews the piece and mentions it will be added to the website, with a portion also planned for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2. Commissioner Reappointments – Staff Liaison Paplauskas provides an update on commissioner reappointments, noting that the terms for Chairperson Irwin and Commissioners Moorehead and Badie will end at the close of this year. Those interested in continuing their roles need to inform Staff Liaison Paplauskas by May 10, so recommendations can be made to the board accordingly.

3. Follow-ups

- DEI Resource Guide – Village Workshop June 17.

- Film Event – Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke provides an update on the Film Event, mentioning that potential venues and partnerships with various organizations have been discussed. The next step is to decide on the films to be featured.

Trustee Simon shares her experience with an AAW organization meeting, where a Zoom session was held with an Arab American woman who shared her family's experiences in Gaza. She highlights the destruction of many universities and hospitals in Gaza, a fact that she wasn't previously aware of. Trustee Simon emphasizes the importance of understanding different cultures beyond the negative news often portrayed. She suggests educating people about life in other countries without focusing solely on negativity and violence. Commissioner McKee suggests hosting conversations with groups in Glen Ellyn to educate about various cultures.

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke suggests incorporating "day in the life" films and discussions to foster connection and understanding. She plans to compile a list of such films and explore obtaining the rights to showcase them.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke motions and Commissioner Moorehead seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next meeting – June 6, 2024.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison