



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

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

Date: November 7, 2024
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present - late 7:15 pm
Molly McGinnis Knapke	Commissioner	Present
Amanda Musacchio	Commissioner	Present
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Present
Alisha Badie	Student Commissioner	Present – late 7;15 pm
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	
Donna Jean Simon	Trustee Liaison	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	
Public Present:		

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL The November 7, 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 October 3, 2024 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 3, 2024 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING as amended

MOTION BY: Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKee

RESULT: Unanimous

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chairperson Irwin welcomed new commissioner Amanda Musacchio to the Community Relations Commission (CRC). Musacchio is a full-time professor of Library Sciences and Department Chair at the College of DuPage. A Wheaton resident, she has also been a member of the local running club for 25 years. Following the introduction, the CRC members each took a moment to introduce themselves to Commissioner Musacchio.

D. COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

1. *Trustee Report* – Trustee Simon provided several updates, noting it had been a busy week with elections. On Saturday, the Village held its Town Hall meeting to nominate candidates for Village President, three Trustee seats, Clerk, and Library Board members. Gary Fasules won the nomination for Village President, Karen Cosby for Clerk, and Anne Gould and Kelley Kalinich were re-nominated as Trustees. Sonya Desai Bhagwakar was nominated as a new Trustee despite facing blackmail and election interference. Bhagwakar received significant support; garnering half of the 1,500 votes cast at the meeting, and will appear on the April ballot.

Trustee Simon emphasized Glen Ellyn's non-partisan election process, where candidates are nominated at the Town Hall meeting, and the final slate is submitted for the April election. Petitions are due by Monday; if no additional petitions are filed, the nominated slate will stand unopposed.

Simon also addressed the incident involving Bhagwakar, explaining that she was threatened during the Town Hall meeting but chose to remain in the race, gaining widespread community support. The Village Trustees plan to investigate the matter further.

In other news, Mark Senak resigned as Village President on Monday, and Kelli Christiansen has been appointed as President Pro-Tem. The President Pro-tem position rotates quarterly. Additionally, a budget reading is scheduled for Monday. The Board is currently reviewing items not included in the proposed budget. There are major upcoming projects such as the replacement of lead service lines, estimated to cost \$10–15 million over the next decade, along with other significant infrastructure initiatives that require funding solutions.

2. *Park District Liaison Report* – No report

3. *Library Liaison Report* – No report

4. *Staff Report* – No report

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

F. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. 2025 Meeting Schedule – The CRC reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule and approved the following changes: the January 2 meeting was rescheduled to January 9, the September 4 meeting to September 11, and the December 4 meeting to December 11.

2. Did You Know – National Native American Heritage Month - Commissioner McKee drafted the initial write-up for 2024, which Chairperson Irwin expanded with additional information, graphics, and an interactive map for 2025. The CRC reviewed the final version. The write-up will be published on the website and included in next week's newsletter.

Commissioner Quadri motioned to approve the Did You Know: Native American Heritage Month content and Commissioner Ali seconded the motion.

3. Did You Know – Thanksgiving from the Native American Perspective - Chairperson Irwin noted that this is the first year the CRC is presenting this write-up. The CRC reviewed the content and expressed their approval.

Commissioner Quadri motioned to approve the content, and Commissioner Ali seconded the motion. The write-up will be added to the website and included in the weekly newsletter in November.

4. Refugee Journey Simulation with COD - Chairperson Irwin reported that the CRC will again partner with College of DuPage (COD) for this event. This year, the CRC will also help promote the event, and our logo will be included. The simulation will take place on November 21, with both a morning and an afternoon session. Chairperson Irwin recommended attending, noting the session lasts approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

5. DEI Training for Village Leadership and Staff - Chairperson Irwin and Commissioner Ali met with Dominique Bolden, a DEI Trainer, to discuss the CRC's objectives for the upcoming training. The goal is to schedule the session in early 2025, inviting village staff, trustees, and potentially members from other commissions.

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke will confirm if space is available at the library for the target date of February 6. The training agenda and final details are still being developed.

6. Dance/Cultural Event – partnership with COD - Commissioner Musacchio reached out to Tim Marono to inquire about continuing the partnership with College of DuPage for this event and is currently awaiting a response.

7. A Day in the Life of Film Series - Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke provided an

update, noting that due to budget constraints, the event could take a different approach. Instead of hosting screenings, the CRC could compile a list of six films for individuals to watch on their own. The curated list could be released in late January. McGinnis-Knapke is working to finalize the selections and invites commissioners to share any film suggestions for inclusion.

G. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McKee moved and Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting – December 12, 2024.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison