



Agenda
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations Commission
Thursday, February 6, 2025
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 306

Meeting Procedures Statement

Visitors are most welcome to attend all public meetings and can find copies of the Agenda online at www.glenellyn.org prior to the meeting. Any individual with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact the Village of Glen Ellyn ADA Coordinator, 630-469-5000, at least five (5) business days in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Review of Minutes

- 1) January 22, 2025 Community Relations Commission Minutes

D. Commission Liaison Reports

- 1)
 - Governmental Partners
 - Police Department
 - Village Board
 - Staff

E. Audience Participation

F. Commission Action Discussion

- 1)
 - Community Belonging.
 - Training, Resource Presentations.
 - Engagement with Glen Ellyn Rotary Club, Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce.
 - Did You Know Writeup(s).
 - Black History Month (February) - Updated and includes film considerations. (Attached, pdf (with active links) and word versions.)
 - Women's History Month (March) - To be updated, and to include film considerations.
 - Potential film consideration links:
 - 50 Films to Watch During Women's History Month - Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences: <https://aframe.oscars.org/what-to-watch/post/50-films-to-watch-during-womens-history-month>.
 - Top Movies for Women's History Month - IMDb:

<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls023241341/>.

- Community Profiles.
 - Recognize/uplift community member(s), in the context of the relevant recognition month (e.g., Black History Month, Women's History Month, etc.).

- Dance/Cultural Event Partnership with COD in February - Latest considerations.

G. Adjourn - Next Meeting March 6, 2025

- 1)
 - Thursday, March 6, 2025. (To be chaired by Chairperson Pro Tem.)
 - Thursday, April 3, 2025. (To be chaired by Chairperson Pro Tem.)
 - Thursday, May 1, 2025. (Consider re-scheduling to 5-8-2025 or 4-30-2025.)



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Community Relations
Regular Meeting
January 22, 2025
7:00PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: January 22, 2025
Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:31 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present – Late arrival 7:08
Molly McGinnis Knapke	Commissioner	Present
Amanda Musacchio	Commissioner	Present
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Present
Alisha Badie	Student Commissioner	Present – Late arrival 7:07

Also Present:

Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	
Elisa Pollina	Recording Secretary	

Public Present:

David Firchau		

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL The January 22, 2025⁴ 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 November 7, 2024 MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 7, 2024 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING as amended

MOTION BY: Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKee

RESULT: Unanimous

C. COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

1. *Government Partners* – No report
2. *Police Department* – No report
3. *Village Board* – No report
4. *Staff Report* – Staff Liaison Paplauskas provided an update, highlighting that the Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Community Awards, with details available online. He also noted that the Historic Preservation Commission is preparing for its Annual Historic Preservation Awards, and information about that is also accessible online.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – David Firchau, a Glen Ellyn resident living near Pan Fish Park, addressed the commission with concerns regarding the demolition activities at the 677 Roosevelt Road site. He reported a recent incident where the EPA shut down the demolition due to the lack of water suppression, which resulted in excessive dust during high winds and above-freezing temperatures.

Firchau shared that he had extensive conversations with the EPA and Illinois Attorney General and is urging the Village to raise public awareness about what he describes as an environmental disaster. He emphasized that the EPA does not halt projects without cause and has petitioned for the involvement of the Federal Attorney General, citing concerns about the use of federal, state, and local tax dollars on a project he believes lacks proper oversight and permitting.

He expressed alarm over the potential release of asbestos, lead, and Freon during demolition, noting the significant dust accumulation over Pan Fish Park. Firchau, a carpenter contractor with decades of experience, compared this situation to the strict inspections and codes he follows in his work. He stated he has never seen such negligence and called for greater accountability, stating that Glen Ellyn should prioritize public safety over politics.

Firchau highlighted the health risks of airborne contaminants, which he believes could harm the community for generations. He urged the Village to involve qualified Public Works staff in overseeing such projects, emphasizing the need for safety and proper abatement measures.

Chairperson Irwin thanked Firchau for bringing his concerns forward and assured him that Grant Paplauskas from the Village staff would share this information with the appropriate departments. Irwin committed to communicating Firchau's concerns to the Village for further review.

E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. DEI Training for Village Leadership and Staff (February 6)- Chairperson Irwin and Commissioner Ali have initiated discussions about the upcoming DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training but have not yet had the opportunity to meet with Dominique Bolden, the DEI Trainer, to align on the CRC's objectives for the session. The training will be open to Village staff, board members, and all commission members.

Staff Liaison Paplauskas emphasized the importance of allocating sufficient time to advertise the training and suggested selecting a later date to allow for adequate preparation and attendance. Commissioner McKee echoed these sentiments, favoring a later date to ensure both strong attendance and preparation.

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke recommended being mindful of the timing and naming of the training, particularly in light of recent federal developments related to DEI. Irwin assured the group that the CRC's mission remains unchanged but emphasized the importance of adapting to current dynamics.

Topics for the training were discussed, including:

- Enhancing communication and fostering understanding among diverse groups.
- Avoiding assumptions about different cultures or their levels of knowledge.
- Creating a more welcoming downtown environment for students and residents of color.
- Promoting inclusive leadership practices.

Chairperson Irwin proposed inviting businesses to participate through the Chamber of Commerce, with Grant suggesting the possibility of combining the training with the Chamber's monthly luncheon, which consistently seeks relevant topics. The next Chamber luncheon will be held at the Historical Society, which has a large venue that could accommodate the session.

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke will reach out to Dawn Bussey to gauge the Chamber's interest in partnering on the event and to explore possible dates. Commissioner Ali will contact Dominique Bolden to confirm her availability and discuss potential topics and timing for the session. The CRC will work collaboratively to finalize details and ensure a productive and well-attended event.

2. Dance/Cultural Event Partnership with COD in February - Commissioner Musacchio will follow up next week to check on the status and confirm any finalized plans for the event.

3. A Day in the Life of Film Series - Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke is continuing to curate a list of films for the series and will provide a viewer's guide to accompany them.

The selected films will be easily accessible for viewers and could be promoted in collaboration with the library. Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke plans to reach out to Dawn Bussey to explore the library's potential partnership with the CRC for this initiative. Commissioner Badie suggested aligning film selections with months of cultural or historical significance, such as Black History Month and Women's History Month, to provide relevant and meaningful content. Commissioner Badie will also contribute a list of films specifically for Black History Month.

Commissioner Quadri has volunteered to write the "Did You Know" feature on Ramadan.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McGinnis-Knapke moved and Commissioner Quadri seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Next meeting – February 6, 2025.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison



Community Relations Commission

Did You Know ...

February 2025

Black History Month

"Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month."

Source: [Black History Month – history.com](#).



Source: [Black \(African American\) History Month Fun Facts – U.S. Census Bureau](#).

Additional Resources

[Black History Month – Library of Congress](#).

[Black Education on the Rise \(January 2023\) – U.S. Census Bureau](#).

Films to Consider (at viewers discretion)

[Black History Month: Films to Watch in Observance – Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.](#)

[Black History Movies – IMDb.](#)

[Summer of Soul.](#) [IMDb – Genres: Documentary, History, Music. Rated PG-13.]

Documentary about the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African-American music and culture and promoted Black pride and unity.

[Soul.](#) [IMDb – Genres: Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Drama, Family, Fantasy, Music. Rated PG.]

Joe is a middle-school band teacher whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz. But when he travels to another realm to help someone find their passion, he soon discovers what it means to have soul.

[Rye Lane.](#) [IMDb – Genres: Comedy, Drama, Romance. Rated R.]

Two youngsters reeling from bad breakups connect over an eventful day in South London.

[The Last Black Man in San Francisco.](#) [IMDB – Genre: Drama. Rate R.]

A young man searches for home in the changing city that seems to have left him behind.