



Minutes
 Village of Glen Ellyn
 Community Relations
 Regular Meeting
 May 8, 2025
 7:00PM
 Glen Ellyn Civic Center

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

Date: May 8, 2025
Called to Order: 7:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:32 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Sania Irwin	Chairperson	Present
Mir Ali	Commissioner	Present
Molly McGinnis Knapke	Commissioner	Present
Amanda Musacchio	Commissioner	Present
Nancy McKee	Commissioner	Present
Maariya Quadri	Commissioner	Absent
Alisha Badie	Student Commissioner	Present - Late arrival at 7:17
Also Present:		
Grant Paplauskas	Communications Coordinator	
Dawn Bussey	Executive Director -Glen Ellyn Public Library	
Public Present:		
Jim Percic	Glen Ellyn Citizens for Race Amity	

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The May 8, 2025 regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order by Chairperson Irwin at 7:07 PM at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2025 AND MARCH 13, 2025

MEETINGS – Commissioner McGinnis made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2025, and March 13, 2025 meetings. Commissioner McKee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

1. *Library* – Director Bussey shared that the Downtown Alliance Scavenger Hunt is underway and will feature an origami theme. There will be 20 unique origami pieces placed throughout the community, with opportunities to win prizes.

The library will also take part in the upcoming community events—on June 9, during the Ice Cream Social, a Hokusai image will be displayed on the side of the building, and the Friends of the Library will host their book sale that evening.

Summer Reading is ramping up, and this year the library is partnering with WDSRA. Bussey encouraged everyone to sign up.

Additionally, Bussey addressed a growing concern at the library: staff has recently encountered an increase in disrespectful behavior from some patrons, driven by a sense of entitlement. The library is actively working to address the issue and is considering bringing in Dominique Bolden, who previously led a "Belonging in a Thriving Community" training, to help staff and improve the environment, organized by CRC.

2. *Village Board* – No report

3. *Staff Report* – Staff Liaison Paplauskas reported that the Village recently passed the grocery tax, which will go into effect next year. In addition, a new bicycle ordinance was approved, impacting bikes, e-bikes, and scooters—particularly in the downtown area. The ordinance aims to enhance public safety in high-traffic pedestrian zones.

On the cultural front, the Village will be celebrating Japanese culture in partnership with the Hokusai exhibit at the College of DuPage. The celebration will include themed activities, public murals, and participation from local businesses, including Japanese-inspired window paintings. Paplauskas encouraged everyone to visit the Hokusai exhibit at COD and take part in the cultural festivities.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

E. COMMISSION ACTION DISCUSSION

1. Operating Principals - Chairperson Irwin reminded the commission of its operating principles, emphasizing the importance of respecting one another's time. She asked members to notify the group in advance if they are unable to attend meetings, noting that maintaining a quorum and starting meetings on time are essential for the commission's effectiveness.

2. Illinois Citizens for Race Amity: Presentation by Jim Percic - Chairperson Irwin introduced Jim Percic from Illinois Citizens for Race Amity. Jim thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak and provided an overview of the organization. He explained that Illinois Citizens for Race Amity is a five-year-old organization working

on a statewide level to promote unity and build inclusive communities. Their mission is to bring people together across racial, cultural, and gender lines to foster friendship, meaningful dialogue, and mutual understanding.

Jim noted that the organization is affiliated with the National Center for Race Amity, which has designated June 8 as Race Amity Day—a day meant to create space for people from different backgrounds to come together in friendship and solidarity. He emphasized that the root of many social issues is a lack of communication, and events like these help break down barriers and misconceptions.

He shared that Race Amity events have been very successful, with attendance ranging from 35 to 75 people. For example, the Naperville group started with 45 participants and has since grown to over 100. A key part of the initiative includes encouraging local governing bodies to issue proclamations in support of Race Amity Day. Jim shared that the DuPage County Board, the State of Illinois, and several area municipalities are issuing such proclamations this year.

Jim invited the commission and the community to support these efforts by publicizing the event and participating. This year, the Lombard event will feature a potluck dinner and a speaker, taking place on Saturday, June 7, as part of a weekend of activities. He distributed flyers with more details and offered a template proclamation for the Village, which can be customized.

The CRC reviewed the sample proclamation and noted that some edits would be needed. Commissioner McKee commented that the proclamation aligns well with the CRC's mission and purpose. The Commission unanimously agreed to recommend that the Village Board issue a proclamation recognizing Race Amity Day.

Commissioner Badie motioned to recommend the proclamation to the Village Board, and Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Did You Know Series: Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Chairperson Irwin provided an updated version of the write-up, which now includes additional resources.

Commissioner Musacchio motioned to approve the revised write-up, and Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Irwin noted that June is a busy month for days of significance. Commissioner McGinnis volunteered to draft the Did You Know write-up for National Immigration Month. The Juneteenth and Pride write-ups will be repurposed from last year, with minor updates as needed.

4. Belonging In A Thriving Community: Session 1 (Belonging & Connections) on 3-21-2025, Session 2 (Cultural Competence) on 5-7-2025, Session 3 is currently in the planning stages and is scheduled to take place this fall. Due to ongoing renovations at the library, an alternative location will need to be selected for the event.

5. Engaging Community: CRC Work and Impact - Intro Presentation to Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce on 6-10-2025, 9:00am. Commissioner Nancy McKee will represent the CRC and will present the DEI Resource Guide and the CRC's accomplishments.

6. Community Relations Commission description for Village website. Irwin noted that all other Village commissions include brief descriptions on their webpages. To align with this, she proposed the following descriptor for the CRC's website:
"Engages the community, so that all individuals are able to fully participate in every aspect of Village life."

7. Proposal: Rotating Presentation by Liaisons (Glen Ellyn Public Library, Glen Ellyn Park District, Glen Ellyn School Districts (87, 41, 89), Glen Ellyn Police Department, Village of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Village Board) – Irwin suggested that CRC liaisons give an annual presentation highlighting their board or commission's accomplishments to help inform the CRC's future initiatives. Commissioner Ali recommended that the CRC not only invite liaisons to share updates, but also provide an overview of the CRC's own work in return. He volunteered to draft an outreach letter to initiate communication with the respective boards and liaisons.

F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE

Commissioner McKee moved and Commissioner Ali seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next meeting – June 5, 2025

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Grant Paplauskas, Staff Liaison