



MEETING MINUTES
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101

A. Call to Order

Pro-Tem Chair Roman called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

Also present: Clerk Waters

C. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

D. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting; Commissioner Miller seconded. Commissioner Kill abstained. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

F. New Business

- a. A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:
 - i. Jackson Toomey – Civic Information Systems Commission
 - ii. Samuel Walker – Environment & Energy Commission
 - iii. Kirsten Weismantle – Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee
 - iv. Mark Dunham – Historic Preservation Commission
 - v. Melissa Avila – Aging in Communities Commission
 - vi. Jeffrey Hines – Liquor Control Review Board (virtual)

Commissioner Elling moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Jackson Toomey is a software developer who works at Yahoo and previously worked for the *Washington Post*. He has been a resident for four years and strongly believes technology can be very good or bad for people interacting with government depending on how it is chosen and developed. He wants to use his skills and knowledge to improve residents' interactions with government to make them more trusting of it.

Samuel Walker has been a resident for 5 years. He is a civil litigator who still works in New Mexico. He has done a lot of volunteering and wants to be civically engaged in our community. He cares about the environment we live in and feels this commission is a lower entry point that doesn't require a lot of technical knowledge. He would be interested in serving other commissions as well.

Kirsten Weismantle is a urban planner who specializes in spatial analytics. She grew up in Oak Park and moved back recently. She coaches boys and girls track at OPRF. She has her masters in city planning. As a consultant, she has worked closely with municipalities and make recommendations to grow and develop sustainability and convince people that affordable housing is not scary.

Mark Dunham has been a resident for 5 years. He is director and senior counsel corporate governance compliance at Mondelez International. He is passionate about the idea of good governance. He is interested in the Historic Preservation Commission and making small tweaks that leave legacies across history and how we impact the physical environment around us. Civics is more important now than ever.

Melissa Avila has lived in Oak Park for three years and is an occupational therapist at Rush in Aurora and at

Esperanza Health Centers in Chicago. She is passionate about the aging and older adult community and she started going to commission meetings last year and it is about the big picture of aging in general, de-stigmatizing aging, and promoting intergenerational community like her Mexican community.

Jeffrey Hines (virtual) is a managing partner of State Farm Insurance on 312 Madison Street in Oak Park. He has a lot of experience with the democratic process around how decisions are made. He has a degree in mechanical engineering and is a business owner. He was previously involved with another village in the D.C. Maryland area. He has been a resident for 8 years.

G. CIC Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

H. Staff Liaison Report

Clerk Waters said she is working to formalize this report. Commissioner Wesonga inquired why the CIC didn't get information about the Civic Engagement Festival until late. Clerk Waters said she wasn't sure how to fit the CIC into the event as there were already 20 organizations participating. She decided to just send an invitation so there wasn't an ask of anyone. Manager Jackson, President Scaman, and staff are very interested in this being an annual event. Commissioner Miller said they would be happy to interface in it.

I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

5 ILCS 120/(c)(1) – Motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment Recommendations of Volunteers to the Village of Oak Park's Advisory Commissions, Committees, and Boards.

Commissioner Wesonga moved to adjourn; Commissioner Miller seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting

K. New Business Continued

- A. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jackson Toomey to the Civic Information Systems Commission

Commissioner Elling moved to approve; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

- B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Samuel Walker to the Environment & Energy Commission

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve; Commissioner Kill seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

- C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Kirsten Weismantle to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Kill moved to approve; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

- D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Mark Dunham to either the Historic Preservation Commission or Citizen Involvement Commission

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

- E. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Melissa

Avila to the Aging in Communities Commission
Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:
Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman
Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

F. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jeffrey Hines to the Liquor Control Review Board
Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve; Commissioner Elling seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:
Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Wesonga, and Pro Tem Chair Roman
Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song, and Chair Kolar

G. Old Business

Commissioner Kill inquired about the status of unsealing executive session minutes. Clerk Waters said Village Attorney Greg Smith provided support getting through that and it is all squared away.

Pro Tem Chair Roman inquired about signing up for Day in Our Village. Clerk Waters said she will not be there this year and CIC will have a table. She will do a sign-up sheet and we will use the shirts from previous years. Commissioner Elling recommended having a light color shirt.

Commissioner Elling inquired about the status of the onboarding project. Clerk Waters said she will respond to his emails when she has time.

Commissioner Wesonga asked if the CIC is going to do something for the new mom on the commission. Commissioner Kill said she would love to do something as a group once the baby is born. Commissioner Miller suggested doing a card.

H. Adjourn

Commissioner Wesonga moved to adjourn; Commissioner Kill seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Deputy Clerk Hansen