

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101

AUGUST 21, 2019 – 7:00PM

PRESENT: Chair G. Brewer, Commissioners; K. Benkert, K. Grimes, B. Hovde, A. Kill, M. Puentes, J. Rodriguez, Y. Terretta and C. West

ABSENT:

STAFF: C. Melton

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Comm. Benkert motioned to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Comm. Teretta

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Comm. Benkert to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019 with corrections and seconded by Comm. Puentes

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS – Commission Activities/Initiatives Review

DINNER AND DIALOGUE: Comm. Puentes reported that

Dinner/Dialogue discussion went well. Everyone was involved. The feedback was that they wanted more time for discussion, as well as back/forth dialogue. Comm. The last event was held on Friday, July 19, 2019. The next scheduled one is in September, 2019. There was discussion

concerning making the event more inclusive and more dialogue amongst each other.

MEETING WITH DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY:

Comm. Grimes began a discussion regarding training of student leaders and faculty that involves more of the community.

Comm. Grimes also discussed the need for brainstorming and questions around the Restorative Justice conference. Comm. Puentes suggested a book to help families communicate better. A discussion took place concerning funds allocated to the group. There was a discussion concerning more advertising for the Dinner/Dialogue for a more diverse group attendance.

BUDGET

1. 2019-2020 – PLANNING

Chair Brewer began a discussion concerning the current budget and what has been spent thus far. Mr. Melton reported that \$928.80 was spent on the 4th of July Parade.

\$1,000 out of \$3,500 budget was spent on Dinner/Dialogue

A Day in Our Village - \$228 out of \$1,000 has been spent.

RACIAL EQUITY: Comm. Kill discussed the need to hold special meetings. A discussed ensued about the ability to have individual meetings with the Trustees – wanting to know their needs and wants. She commented that the Diversity Statement did not

go well. There are other Trustees to meet with. The decision was made to move forward with the Equity Resolution, have it as a part of the work plan; along with joining GARE and recommending this to the Trustees. Talks began urging the Village Board to have an Internal/External Appointee through Racial Equity lines. There was a recommendation of an overview – are the policies impacted? At this time, Comm. Kill circulated a draft memorandum dated 8/21/19. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Hovde reported that the Village Board wants an overall review of standard practices.

Comm. Kill reported that Line #4 (Conducting a Racial Equity impact assessment), needs to be clarified for the Village Board in regards to the Memo dated 8/21/19.

Chair Brewer suggested that the Comm. Liaison (Trustee Boutet) present the information to the Village Board.

The CRC is all on board with the statement. A motion was made by Comm. Kill to adopt the Redline version and comments of the CRC to the Village Board. It was seconded by Comm. Benkert. A Roll Call was made.

All in Favor: Aye – Oppose: None. So Moved.

Chair Brewer will email the statement to Comm. Liaison Boutet to forward to the Village Board.

A motion was made by Chair Brewer to adopt the Memorandum to share with the Liaison with the intent to share with the Village Board after editing. A motion

was made by Comm. Hovde and seconded by Comm. Grimes. All in Favor: Aye – Opposed – None - So moved.

Comm. Benkert distributed a draft of an RFP from other funding sources. She asked for feedback. Comm. Benkert also distributed a statement regarding an Inclusion Support Proposal. Comm. Hovde suggested using a scorecard for objectivity.

Chair Brewer suggested including a maximum amount or using \$100 - \$1,000. It would be open to Oak Park or the middle school could apply for the funding. Comm. Kill suggested reviewing the CRC Mission statement and Chair Brewer suggested including the Mission statement.

A discussion ensued regarding submitting proposal to Mr. Melton and the VOP Community. A Google form was suggested or word document.

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: Comm. Benkert stated that a draft should be circulated of an RFP from other funding sources, with the need to evaluate if we want to support it. Feedback is needed today if possible. She also distributed a statement entitled, “Oak Park Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement.” This statement is to be adopted and provided to Trustee Boutet via Chair Brewer.

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY 101 – Comm. Hovde discussed included state and practice and ending with a proposed language, how to become certified and sending

the information as a working document to the CRC. There was a discussion of how to present the Committee Initiatives to the Village Board that ties into what the Village Board is working on as well. Comm. Hovde suggested using a brief statement to have the Village Board take notice.

Chair Brewer suggested making a recommendation to the Trustee Liaison and the manager. It would go into the Managers budget to include in the CRC budget. A discussion ensued regarding funding and reporting it to the manager's office. The total budget for the CRC is \$9,600.00.

C. WORKPLAN

Comm. Benkert put together a 2019/2020 Planning workplan. Mr. Melton discussed how the 4th of July Parade became part of the CRC – which was created in 2004. Comm. Kill suggested the use of more creativity in more organizations for the upcoming parade and more output.

Comm. West suggested promoting other events throughout the year and promoting an Informational Booth during the winter holidays; along with combining several events.

Chair Brewer reported that if you have any ideas on the work plan/budget, please let us know and email them for discussion at the September meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding recruiting to diversify Commissions. Mr. Melton suggested consulting with David Powers, Director of Communications.

2nd Annual Restorative Justice Conference –

Comm. Grimes asked if funds were available for the conference. She would like to sponsor the food. Comm. Benkert motioned to approve \$500 maximum to sponsor the food. It was seconded by Comm. Hovde.

All in Favor: Aye – All Opposed: None – So. Moved.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019 at 7pm. A special meeting on Racial Equity is on for discussion on September 4, 2019.

ADJOURN

Comm. Kill motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Benkert. So moved. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Andrea F. Mance

Recording Secretary