

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 – 7:00PM

PRESENT: **Acting Chair – M. Puentes, Commissioners; K. Benkert, K. Grimes, J. Rodríguez, B. Hovde Y. Terretta, C West**

ABSENT: **Chair G. Brewer**

STAFF: **Village Trustees: S. Boutet, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, Former CRC Chair Tom Zapler and C. Melton**

CALL TO ORDER: **The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Comm. Grimes motioned to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Comm. Rodriguez.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **A motion was made by K. Grimes and seconded by Y. Terretta to approve the minutes with the following corrections. Add an “s” to Comm. Puentes last name. So Moved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Former CRC Chair commented that the CRC was doing a great job.**

Trustee Boutet will send the Equity statement to the Village Board to move forward.

Trustee Walker-Peddakotla made a request to be included in all CRC emails.

Trustee Boutet announced that on Monday night, the Village Board approved the CRC's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Small Grant Program Application. A discussion ensued.

It was noted by the Board that monies cannot be used for Political purposes. There should be a Word document or Google document that the Commission can send out to applicants. C. Melton stated that he will email the information to Comm. Benkert for dissemination. Proposals are due by 11/12/19. The time span for completion of projects will be extended to 3/31/20.

A discussion ensued regarding the time span for grant allocation.

C. Melton stated that the review of the proposals will be discussed at the October meeting. Comm. Benkert will provide the proposals to Commissioners prior to the October meeting. .

OLD BUSINESS – COMMISSION ACTIVITIES/INITIATIVES REVIEW

A. DINNER AND DIALOGUE

Comm. Grimes reported that on 9/15/19 the Dinner & Dialogue went well. There were 10 people in attendance. We may want to reduce it to 8. It was well received. We need more diversity in our registration. Perhaps the Restorative Justice Conference may bring more attendance to the Dinner & Dialogues. The next event is scheduled for November 15.

A discussion ensued regarding the goal of hearing other perspectives and are they being met. Comm. Puentes reported that people of color are willing to go; they have an idea of what to expect or earn. It's about being able to share. The revision of questions in July changes the feelings. She discussed the presentation of the "5 Love Languages" during Dinner/Dialogue Session at the Restorative Justice Conference.

It will be a 3 day event – multi-generational. It will be an opportunity for families to get together. Comm. Grimes discussed funding for 150 meals.

B. RACIAL EQUITY

1. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Grants

C. Melton announced that he would send out an award letter to the chosen organization(s) or person(s). Comm. Grimes pointed out, that according to our current grant application, projects or prospective projects need to be completed, by year end, which is probably not long enough. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Benkert stated that she would supply score cards and provide award letters. C. Melton will send Comm. Benkert the proposals.

Comm. Grimes discussed the Echo Center Projects' need for seed money. The CRC needs smaller projects.

Comm. Benkert suggested moving the application deadline date from October 4 to November 8. The Commission can deliberate at the November 20 meeting to discuss the applicants.

Comm. Rodriguez stated that she will send out information via email blasts regarding the RFP.

Trustee Boutet stated that she will provide a list of organizations to Comm. Rodriguez regarding the RFP.

Comm. West pointed out that the total amount of funding available is \$2,000.

2. Trustee Discussions

Comm. Hovde reported that she had met with Trustee Buchanan, who's supportive.

Comm. Puentes met with Trustee Moroney regarding policies and equity work. She didn't feel he would be working with the Commission. In discussing the Equity statement with Trustee Moroney, he felt that it needs more language; however, he does approve and support equity work.

Trustee Andrews was in approval of the Assessment.

Comm. Puentes reported that Anne Marie Kill will share her notes about meeting with the Trustees as well.

Trustee Walker-Peddakotla asked the Commission, what is the outcome that you want? There needs to be an Ordinance and not a Resolution. It should be strong and demand certain outcomes. Chair Brewer needs to talk to Mayor Anan and other Trustees.

Racial Equity is a Board goal. The CRC has to define the outcome and goals. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Puentes reported that the Village Attorney stated the Commission should go with a Resolution.

Trustee Boutet suggested that Trustee Walker-Peddakotla should present the Equity Statement.

Comm. Hovde and Puentes discussed finding a partnership with GARE. It was noted that Trustee Buchanan should bring up the GARE proposal.

A discussion ensued regarding how to disseminate information to the Village Board under public comment at the Monday Board meeting on Public Record.

Trustee Walker-Peddakotla suggested getting Community support and getting people to call and establishing a pattern of items that have not moved forward to the Village Board.

Trustee Boutet stated, "Who do we want to represent our values?"

C. WORK PLAN

1. 2019-2020 Planning/Adoption

Comm. Benkert suggested approving the work plan. Edits were suggested at last meeting and should be in the current document. She suggested changing the resolution to policy.

Comm. Puentes will make the year changes for the Completed Initiatives.

Comm. Grimes wants to name the organizations that Dinner & Dialogue partnered with such as Dominican University, Oak Park River Forest Museum, etc.

C. Melton stated that he would include the dollar amounts used for Dinner/Dialogues.

A motion by Comm. Terretta to approve the Work Plan for 2019-2020 was announced and seconded by Comm. West/Hovde. So Moved.

D. BUDGET

1. 2019-2020 – Planning/Adoption

A motion was made by Comm. Rodriguez and seconded by Comm. Benkert to approve the Work plan and Budget. Roll Call was given.

All in Favor – Aye, Opposed – 0. So Moved.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A) Social Justice Youth Club

Comm. Puentes reported that a Black/Brown LGPTQ Party will be held at the end of October (10/25/19) at 7pm-10pm at LIVE CAFÉ. There are funds available from the Dinner/Dialogue to assist with the event.

C. Melton suggested the Commission create a proposal for monetary donations to support this event. A discussion ensued.

Trustee Boutet suggested using a petty cash system. Trustee Walker-Peddakotla felt the need to support their efforts count.

Comm. Puentes reported that there will be a chaperone at the event and looking at 100-150 people in attendance.

Comm. Grimes felt that this event could serve as a Dinner/Dialogue event. She reported that the Commission budget is \$3,500 and they have spent \$1,000. There are outstanding invoices of approximately \$600, excluding the \$500 spent for Restorative Justice Conference. There should be \$1,400 left for the remainder of the year in the budget.

A discussion ensued. Comm. Hovde moved to approve \$500 for the social Justice Youth Club Party. It was seconded by Comm. Terretta.

A Roll Call was ordered. All in Favor – Aye, Opposed – Nay. So Moved.

7) ADJOURN

With no further discussion, a motion by Comm. Benkert to adjourn was established and seconded by Comm. Terretta. So Moved. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Andrea F. Mance