

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**7:00pm**

**Village Hall – Room 102**

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**1) CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm

**A. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Village Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla, Chair Brewer,  
Commissioners, J. Rodriguez, C. West, M. Puentes and B. Hovde

**Also Present:** Former Comm. K. Benkert and A.M. Kill

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Y. Terretta and K. Grimes

**2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Agenda approved.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Comm. Hovde to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 7, 2019, seconded by Comm. Rodriguez. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**4) PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Anne Marie Kill requested that the recording tape be stopped and Chair Brewer asked for a consensus to stop the recording.

A motion was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Hovde to stop the recording. A Roll Call was taken and the tape was turned off.

It was also asked to be noted for the record that the recording is not the official record.

**5) OLD BUSINESS – Commission Activities/Initiatives Review**

A discussion ensued regarding the following items.

## 5A. CRC Recommendations on Racial Equity

Trustee Walker-Peddkotla discussed 2 versions of the CRC version. There are notes from the CRC Public Feedback Session. Trustee Walker-Peddkotla also discussed the version that Trustee Susan Buchanan's husband has edited as well. However, this version has not been added. Comm. Hovde wanted it noted for the record that the CRC placed an effort into putting the Racial Equity Statement together.

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla stated that a lot of what was asked for was for the CRC to cut down to 3 items concerning the Racial Equity Statement/Proposal.

A discussion ensued regarding getting training for the Trustees, along with staff.

Ann Marie Kill suggested that Trustee Andrews would like to see what comes out of the Ordinance and then move forward. Trustee Moroney felt that it requires a demotion of power from Village officials?

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla made a reference to the Evanston Racial Equity Policy.

Chair Brewer suggested adding a checklist and a study. There is a need for greater understanding both ways. There is a need to report factual conversations moving forward. We are suggesting things to be in the best interest of the Village.

Comm. Puentes reported that she recently attended the CIC Forum meeting. She stated how effective it is being on a Commission. People wanting to know what effectiveness we have.

Comm. Rodriguez reported that she emailed Trustee Taglia 3 separate times with no response, last one today. If the Trustee doesn't respond after 24 hours, he doesn't have time or it's not worth it. That speaks volumes.

Ms. Benkert stated that she tried to reach out to him as well. She felt that Trustee Talia was for it, but no interest now.

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla informed the Commission that she would send an email to Trustee Taglia and inform him that Comm. J. Rodriguez is trying to reach him.

Comm. Rodriguez stated that the Commission value his opinion and want to include him.

Ms. Benkert noted that Racial Equity was part of Trustee Taglia campaign.

Chair Brewer announced that he would speak with him as well.

Comm. Hovde reported that she made comments and Trustee Boutet was supposed to forward the information to the Trustees. Did the Board ever see the annotated version?

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla responded, "I don't think so, and said that she would send those annotations to the Board once she get them."

A discussion ensued.

Chair Brewer noted that any other recommendations on Items #1 and Items #2 will be voted on next Monday (10/7/19).

## **B) RACIAL EQUITY BOARD GOALS:**

Comm. Puentes clarified the Board Goals for Monday night meeting should be:

- a. Joining GARE
- b. Training and Practice Assessment

A discussion ensued regarding the removal of items would require another vote.

Comm. Hovde suggested sending a letter to the Board. Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla replied that she would make a comment to the Village Manager, Cara Pavlicek and Asst. Village Manager, Lisa Shelley regarding the CRC Agenda.

### **C) TRUSTEE MORONEY'S EMAIL TO THE BOARD REGARDING THE CRC**

Ms. Benkert stated that the transcription was a travesty. It was a gross misrepresentation of our work. Working 3 years on this issue, it's infuriating.

Chair Brewer announced, let's not get into speculation. There will be a response. How did they get access to the tape? I will share the response.

Comm. Rodriguez stated, "This was sparked by Comm. Terretta asking why something hasn't been done. We were having a discussion."

Ms. Kill announced that the Village Manager gets direction from the Village Board.

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla stated her confusion is with special sessions topics, it was at the very next meeting that nothing came to the Board; I never got clear direction. The idea that we can't challenge the Village Manager is absurd. She is not beyond reproach.

Chair Brewer explained the process of the Village Manager. She carries out the direction of the Village Board and day-to-day operations. "It is important that what we do from this moment forward and ultimately we will get to where we need to go."

Comm. Rodriguez asked, is there a response to this chaos? Chair Brewer announced, we will write a response and he will share it with the Commissioners. If you have recommendations, you have my email address. I'm open for suggestions. Please have them to me by Noon on Friday, October 11, 2019.

## **D) CONVERSATIONS WITH TRUSTEES' REGARDING RACIAL EQUITY**

Chair Brewer announced, what can we learn?

Ms. Kill stated that Trustee Moroney was uncomfortable with the ideal of equal outcomes; willing to work and sacrifice. His statement was, "everyone should have a seat at the table."

Comm. Puentes stated that all the people of color do not have a seat at the table. He doesn't think there is a problem.

Comm. Rodriguez stated that he's confusing equity and equality.

Ms. Kill read off questions that she had asked Trustee Moroney. She reported that Trustee Moroney thinks it's a complex issue and don't want to confuse it with moral issues. He believes in Capitalism. He hesitates to provide measurable goals. There is affordable housing, less focused on the anecdotal. He wanted specifics, identify problems and then assess.

Trustee Andrews will spend \$8,000 on assessments. Possibly support spending \$10K but would need to see a problem first. Ms. Kill reported that GARE is the most qualified after two years of research. Ms. Kill reported that Trustee Moroney stated, "When we change the rules, it has consequences. Focus on issues that are identifiable, that we can change."

Ms. Kill announced that she had a 1 ½ hour meeting and it was a good meeting.

Our mission was to gather information. Ms. Kill felt it was a very productive meeting as well as the meeting with Trustee Andrews.

Chair Brewer felt that the Commission needs help to implement and make recommendations of initiatives, etc., to drive this forward. He also instructed the Commission to write notes to compile all of their specific answers to the questions to produce one document.

A discussion ensued.

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla stated that she felt that the CRC had wasted a lot of their time. The CRC can collate their answers. Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla agrees with Ms. Ann Marie Kill points.

A discussion ensued.

Chair Brewer announced that, it should be very instructive as to how we carry out our work plan and 3 goals we have.

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla informed the Commission that the Board reviews all work plans.

Chair Brewer announced that the Trustee Liaison will respond to any questions about a Commissioners work plan. The Board will make a recommendation. All of the work plans will be on the agenda. The liaison will have an opportunity to defend the work plan. The Board usually has the tendency to affect the outcome.

Comm. Hovde announced that the Commission should be doing a better job in collecting data. Let's look at it different for Trustee Andrews and Moroney; who is seeking this (make a case for it).

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddkotla reported that the assessment would be up to the Village Manager.

## **6) ADJOURN**

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Comm. Hovde to adjourn and seconded by Comm. Puentes. So moved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Andrea F. Mance

Recording Secretary