

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
December 15th, 2021 – 7:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Comms. Brewer, Flowers, Quinn, Sakiyama, Rodriguez, Puentes, Terretta, Hughes

ABSENT: Comm. Bencola

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Comm. Terretta motioned for agenda approval Comm. Puentes providing a second. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Comm. Terretta motioned to approved the minutes with the necessary changes; Comm. Puentes seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATION: Oak Park Village President, Vicki Scaman, spoke with the CRC about the CRC providing community support by offering guidance and hosting discussions on race and cohesion in the Village of Oak Park in light of a protest against COVID-1 policies, which turned into a protest against the Director of Oak Park’s Health Department, who is a person of color. Several commissioners expressed appreciation to President Scaman for opening up about the situation. Commissioners were open to exploring how to incorporate separate goals for the issue presented by President Scaman into the CRC work plan. Suggestions included having a health leaders consortium and having commissioners work more closely with other community organizations, such as the library. President Scaman encouraged the CRC to continue to think about things and offered her availability via phone or email should immediate response is needed.

Behind President Scaman’s presentation, Comm. Brewer suggested that the commissioners get used to working in pairs so that things can get done in between meetings, without there being any violation of the Open Meetings Act. Comm. Brewer offered his expertise with bringing people together to solve issues in the community by suggesting that potential speakers be identified for the appropriate audiences, developing the format (virtual, in person, etc.), having round table discussions and facilitating focus groups. Comm. Brewer requested that the CRC think about scaling back some of the other items in the work plan and focus more on activities that will bring more people together, in light of was President Scaman brought to the CRC. Comm. Flowers suggested the possible modification to the approach and discussion format of the Dinner & Dialogue model.

Tr. Enyia related that he has spoken with Clerk Waters and Comm. Terretta to get better usage of the talent of the CRC by identifying how best to use the CRC's platform to address the types of issues discussed in President Scaman's presentation. With a topic such as racial equity, factors such as CRC group size, skill sets and knowledge base are important as the CRC moves forward.

Comm. Puentes sought clarity from Pres. Scaman as to the nature of a resolution: is it equitable or is it seeking cultural competency? Per Pres. Scaman, the end result should be a more equitable Village of Oak Park with resources and support to people who experience trauma, thus bringing more people to a level of awareness that Village of Oak Park is a better community. Pres Scaman expressed a need for the CRC to be a part of the process in order for it to happen. She further related that the Board has a lot of goals which can be successful with the building of relationships and resources.

Comm. Brewer will check the provisions of the CRC's charter to ascertain if there is a way to have an emergency meeting as several commissioners feel the need for a plan to be proactive in directing the community on what to do and how to do things when situations as described by Pres. Scaman happen.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. DISCUSSION ON CRC WORKPLAN

Comm. Brewer informed the CRC that a meeting with Clerk Waters was had with all commission chairpersons and there is flexibility as to when the work plan can be turned in since the CRC is just fully constituted. Comm. Brewer asked the commissioners to consider three or four projects/activities, in light of the current discussion with Pres. Scaman, whereas the three or four activities can be a greater impact. The commission agreed to the organizing principles that encompass Interpersonal, Institutional, and Systemic/Structural components within the broad categories of Education, Community Engagement, and Partnerships. Comm Terretta was asked to finalize the format and send to Comm. Brewer by 1/12/2022 for distribution to all commissioners by 1/17/2022. Comm. Brewer suggested that by the January meeting, the CRC should have a document that they can agree on and send to the Board via Tr. Enyia. Comm. Brewer will send out the Clerk's list of the CRC members contact information.

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURN: Motioned by Comm. Sakiyama, seconded by Comm. Terretta at 9:03 p.m.