

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
September 21, 2022 – 7:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

ABSENT: Comms. Bencola (Comm. Bencola will be back in October)

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Comm. Quinn motioned for agenda approval Comm. Sakiyama provided a second. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting on August 17, 2022 was tabled until the October 19, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Danielle Walker, DEI Officer for the Village of Oak Park appeared before the commission to speak about their role in obtaining community feedback for the village's Racial Equity Resolution. The Commission members were open to working on this endeavor in an effort to effectively align with the village Board's goals for racial equity. To maintain compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Chrnm Brewer will be the conduit for communications between commission members.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. CRC Mini Grant Applications – The commission received twenty-five (25) applications from various organizations in and around Oak Park. Each commission member was tasked with scoring each applicant on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most in line with the Commission's efforts around racial equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as community engagement. An average of the scores were used to grade each applicant. After careful review and discussion of all grant applicants, by a roll call vote, the Commission awarded ten (10) mini grants to the following organizations:
 1. Race Conscious Dialogues - \$1200
 2. Uniquely You Tea Party - \$1000
 3. Kinfolk Colab - \$1500
 4. ROYAL - \$1200
 5. One Earth Collective - \$1200
 6. The Collectivist - \$1000

7. Pan Asian Alliance - \$600
8. Ofrenda De Dia De Muertos - \$1000
9. Food Aid - \$500
10. Harambee Kuumba Kids - \$1000

The commission chair will notify the Village President and the Trustee Board of the commission's awarding of the mini grants. All applicants will be notified in writing as to the decision of their grant request. At a later date, the Communications Department will be asked to publicize information about the awardees.

Comms. Rodriguez and Terretta will begin selecting policies from the Village Board's plan which either line up with the Commission's work plan and/or on which the commission can begin working to align with the board. Comm. Terretta will contact the Village Manager's office to find out what issues may be of interest or are coming up. As a segueway, Cedric Melton informed the commission of an opportunity for the contact with the Village Manager Kevin Jackson as VM Jackson has requested a retreat/gathering with the Commission to discuss the its goals, work plans, and ideas around community engagement. Also, the CRC was notified that the work plan for 2023 is due soon. At the next meeting, the CRC will review the current 2022 work plan to see what will carry over to 2023.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Next meeting will be virtual on 10/19/2022. There is no word yet on when the commission will return to in-person meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Terretta.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.