



**MEETING MINUTES
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

A. Call to Order

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Roman, Song

Also present: Clerk Waters

C. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

The commissioners discussed the working meeting on March 20. Clerk Waters clarified that work cannot be done on the 2024 work plan until it has been approved by the Village Board.

D. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting; Commissioner Miller seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

F. New Business

A. A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be Considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:

- i. Sarah Guerin – Community Design Commission
- ii. Woody Meachum – Farmers’ Market Commission
- iii. Jessica Paul – Community Design Commission and/or Historic Preservation Commission
- iv. Marcia DiVerde – Community Design Commission or Farmers’ Market Commission

Commissioner Miller moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Sarah Guerin is a lifelong resident of Oak Park. She wants to be a part of making improvements and decisions and giving recommendations. She works for a Fortune 500 food ingredient manufacturer in corporate communications, including graphic design, social media, press releases, and stories. She wants to get different opinions and viewpoints on how to keep the village’s aesthetic appeal while still honoring its history. She also serves on the associate’s board of the Brookfield Zoo.

Woody Meachum has lived in Oak Park since 1997 and has been in the digital advertising and analytic space for 30 years. He grew up on a fruit and vegetable farm in southwest Michigan. He has a passion for cooking and has sourced ingredients from the Oak Park Farmers' Market. He believes access to locally grown things is important and we have to give the farmers a place to do that. He sees the diversity in offerings has grown and would like to see that continue.

Jessica Paul has lived in Oak Park since 2013 and lives in the Frank Lloyd Wright District. She is an attorney in family law with experience in general civil litigation and eminent domain, land use, and zoning. She wants to get involved and admires what the Historic Preservation Commission does. She acknowledges the need to focus on equity, sustainability, accessibility, affordability. She is also interested in the Community Design Commission and passionate about gardening, native planting, and having sustainable lawns.

Marcia DiVerde said she prefers the Farmers' Market Commission because the Community Design Commission seems to have two different goals of signage/branding and forestry/horticulture and that feels confusing and she doesn't have a forestry background. She has lived in Oak Park for three years and is from Melrose Park. She works in a very technical field for Verizon. She loves going to the Oak Park Farmers' Market and it sounds like a fun way to get involved.

B. Review of Vacancy Report

The Farmers' Market Commission has two vacancies. Commissioner Kill noted the vacancies on the Community Relations Commission and inquired if exit interviews are being done to determine why commissioners are resigning, which Clerk Waters confirmed they are being done. They discussed the current chair vacancies and upcoming chair expirations.

C. New Advisory Board, Commission or Committee Appointments at February 13, 2024 and March 5, 2024 Board of Trustees Meetings

There was no discussion.

G. CIC Liaison Reports

Commissioner Elling said the Civic Information Systems Commission had a commissioner roll off from her second term and she would be happy to renew for one year.

H. Staff Liaison Report

Clerk Waters acknowledged the Environment & Energy Commission and Community Relations Commission resignations. She said onboarding training is being created for commissioners and it will be brought to the CIC. A new step has been added to the application process where Clerk Waters has a Zoom call with them to serve as a first touchpoint for applicants.

I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment Recommendations of Volunteers to the Village of Oak Park’s Advisory commissions, Committees and Boards.

Commissioner Kill motioned; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 8:29 P.M.

J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:31 P.M.

K. New Business

A. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Sarah Guerin to the Community Design Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Elling seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Woody Meachum to the Farmers’ Market Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jessica Paul to the Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Marcia DiVerde to the Farmers’ Market Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the

motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

E. A Motion to Approve the 2024 Citizen Involvement Commission Work Plan

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Kill, Lott, Miller, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Abstain: Elling

Absent: Eid, Roman, Song

Chair Kolar clarified \$3,500 is for volunteer recruitment and \$5,000 is for volunteer recognition. Clerk Waters noted that Day in Our Village and Facebook are free and seem to be the most impactful for recruitment.

F. Discussion on agenda topics for upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission meeting(s)

The March 20 special meeting will be led by Commissioners Eid and Wesonga. Commissioners will choose one of three working groups to review, change, and understand the 2024 work plan.

Commissioner Elling requested to add a discussion of an emeritus position and a review of the onboarding process to the April 3 agenda.

L. Old Business

There was no discussion.

M. Adjourn

Commissioner Wesonga moved to adjourn; Commissioner Kill seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Hansen