



**Morton Grove Community Relations Committee
Agenda and Meeting Notice**

Monday January 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m. 2nd Floor Scanlon Conference Room
6101 Capulina Morton Grove, IL 60053

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – November 17, 2025
3. **PROGRAMS & EVENTS**
 - a. **2026 Resident Handbook**
 - i. Thanks to all who contributed
 - ii. 2026 will be available online in in paper copy by request
 - b. **Winter 2025 Adopt a planter**
 - i. 108 / 113 planters were adopted this season (5 planters were not adopted)
 - ii. 30 planters had to be decorated by staff due to no adoption, participants not decorating, or participants requesting assistance decorating
 - iii. Marketing for Evergreen Tree Giveaway to begin March 2026
 - iv. Trees to be removed in April for adoption by residents
 - c. **Neighborhood Outreach**
 - i. Next Outreach will be February 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Melzer school
 - ii. Volunteers needed to host welcome table
 - d. **Outstanding Neighbor Recognition**
 - i. Ongoing based on submissions
 - e. **Summer 2026 Adopt a Planter**
 - i. Need to choose plant pick up date (first or second Saturday in June)
 - ii. Discuss plants. logistics
 - f. **Community Garage Sale**
 - i. Need to choose date (typically one week after plant pick up)
 - ii. Marketing (via email website and e-news) to begin in May
 - g. **Photo Contest** – Memorial Day through Labor Day
 - h. **Winter 2026 Adopt a Planter**
 - i. Choose Dates
4. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - a. Proposal for Community Collage
 - b. Next Meeting Monday March 15, 2026 @ 6:30 pm Scanlon Conference Room
5. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2025
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE – 6101 CAPULINA AVE
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Theresa Polyak who led the assemblage in the pledge of allegiance. In attendance were:

Members: Theresa Polyak, Laurie Katz, Robert Burkhart, Janice Cha, Lisa Khabeer, Gladys Rosas, Ginny Ching-Yin Lo, Kristey Chalabi, Rosemarie Alioto and Peggy Borg

Absent: Mohammed Farooqui, Katherine Yi, Patrick Baldwin

Village Staff : Corporation Counsel Teresa Hoffman Liston, Trustee Connie Travis

Chairperson Polyak asked for approval of minutes for March 17, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Khabeer and seconded by Commissioner Cha. Minutes approved unanimously via voice vote.

Chairperson Polyak reported that the Village had not received any new applications for the Outstanding Neighbor program. She then reported on the progress of the Winter Adopt a Planter Program. The online adoption process is working well. Currently there are 92 trees adopted out of a total of 114. Registration ends Thursday, November 20. Planter ready to be decorated November 24. All trees must be decorated by Monday, December 8, 2025. A discussion then ensued about offering planters to businesses, whether planters could be located at the Morton Grove Public Library, and new planters placed in front of Moretti's. The Village also will be enforcing a new regulation requiring that any signage placed in planters be smaller than 7" x 5" and not be offensive or commercial in nature.

Chairperson Polyak then reported on proposed CRC events and programs for 2026:

Program/Event	Dates	Comments/notes
Photo Contest	Summer	CRC to solicit participants and choose winners
Summer Adopt a Planter	May/June	CRC to solicit participants help with signage and distribute plants
Neighborhood Outreach	3x/yr TBD	Act as host/greeter
Outstanding Neighbor Recognition	As needed	CRC to solicit and choose honorees

Community Garage Sale	June 5-7	CRC to promote participation and assemble and distribute signage
Winter Adopt a Planter	Nov-March	CRC to promote event
2026 Resident Handbook	Ongoing	CRC to provide updates

With respect to the 2026 resident handbook, Commissioner Burkhardt asked if the handbook could include new information on the E-Bike and E-Scooter regulations, and about newly imposed permanent parking restrictions. Commissioner Ching-Yin Lo suggested the Commission implement a new event to bring people together such as a community picnic which could include a guided hike. Commissioner Khabeer asked that the event include a component of supporting the townships’ food pantries with a theme of “Stronger Together”. Commissioner Burkhardt suggested the Commission focus on helping the homeless. Commissioner Rosas provided information about Abundant Harvest, a local organization program which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to homebound seniors, twice a month, delivered to their door. Commissioners Ching-Yin Lo, Khabeer and Cha agreed to work together to develop a plan for a community picnic.

Under other Business, Commissioner Khabeer reported on her volunteer efforts to support people impacted by recent ICE enforcement activities. Trustee Travis and Ms. Liston reported on the Village’s response which includes signage in Village parking lots prohibiting non-village activities and publications advising people impacted by immigration enforcement activities of their rights and resources available to them. Commissioner Khabeer then provided an update on activities being planned for Pride month and asked whether the Village would consider displaying Pride flags during the month of June. Commissioners Khabeer and Burkhardt also questioned that considering the Village’s diversity, whether the Village’s “Santa Comes to Town” event is relatable to non-Christian families.

Chairperson Polyak reviewed the 2026 meeting calendar with the commissioners. Regular meetings are scheduled at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November. However, as the 3rd Monday of January falls on the Martin Luther King holiday, the January meeting will be scheduled for, January 12, 2026.

There being no further business, Commissioner Khabeer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cha and approved unanimously by a voice vote at 7:39 p.m.

Minutes By

Teresa Hoffman Liston

Proposal for Community Relations Commission

Jan 12 2026 (submitted Jan 5 2026)

From subcommittee: Janice Cha, Ginny Ching-yin Lo, Lisa Khabeer

- something to benefit the village
 - **MORTON GROVE COMMUNITY COLLAGE** - Assemble a mural – people collage onto a substrate & paint small bits, then it gets assembled
 - **Goals -**
 - create a mural that can be displayed in the new village hall ;
 - give people a chance to mingle and get to know each other in a collaborative setting
 - **Theme Ideas:**
 - **Together We Are Strong**
 - **Multi-Cultural Morton Grove**
 - **United We Stand**
 - where – Civic Center? Prairie view?
 - supplies – substrate (paper squares, canvas or sturdy paper 6"x6", paint, brushes, etc) – AND a plan to put it together for display – AND snacks
 - [6 Packs: 5 ct. \(30 total\) Value Pack Canvas Panels by Artist's Loft® Necessities™](#) - 30 panels for \$21.54 (less than \$1 per panel)
 - Brushes
 - Paint [36 Color Acrylic Paint Value Set by Craft Smart®](#)
 - Mod Podge (16 oz, \$8)
 - Refreshments – coffee, hot water + tea; cookies + napkins, cups (reach out to MG bakeries)
 - Age range - all ages, but kids younger than, say, 12, must be supervised by parents
 - timing –
 - Saturday or Sunday afternoon, 2-4 pm (set up at 1 pm; clean up ends at 5 pm)
 - late April , early May (avoid mother's day in May)
 - Suggested dates
 - **Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 2 pm to 4 pm**
 - **Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 2-4 pm**
 - Budget : TBD
 - Advance registration
 - Need a headcount at least 2 weeks before to prepare materials
 - Use similar sign up system as used for the spring and winter planters
 - Invite local musicians to provide Instrumental background music
 - Invite a local photographer to capture the excitement
 - Online research - ideas, inspiration
 - <https://www.instructables.com/Community-Collage-Project/>
 - <https://oliverartcenterfrankfort.org/collage-project>
 - <https://creativityreignited.com/collage-ideas/>

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