

Official Report of the Community Relations Commission
January 14, 2020 6:30 pm.

Members present: Burkhart, Schultz, Pimentel. Cha, Laliwala

Members absent: John, Engel, Flores, Voehringer, Pellicano,
Murphy, Downing

Board of Trustees Members: Connie Travis

Members of Village Staff present: Teresa Liston

Guests: Debbie Wiedeman, Morton Grove Public Library

Ms. Wiedeman reviewed a series that is coming up at Skokie Public Library, Lifting Up Early Childhood. A film will be shown with an open discussion following.

Commissioner Burkhart distributed literature about the Coming Together event, the sharing of the journeys that residents have made and settled in Niles Township as their home. The first event is Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 1:00 pm. at Niles West High School. Community residents will share how they decided to settle here through on-stage performances, videos, dance, world music, and art. This event is free and open to the public.

Ms. Pimentel asked how the CRC programs could be restructured in order to engage more people from the Commission to fulfill a quorum each month. Suggestions were made to sponsor a Community Pot luck, Dinner night, and Block Party. It was also suggested for the members that want to be a part of the committee but can't participate fully should be granted an emeritus status and come to the meetings when available. This would form a smaller group of members that regularly attend and therefore conform to the numbers required for a quorum. Letters will be sent to those members that have not regularly attended advising they will not be considered as part of the quorum but are welcome to attend a meeting whenever they are available.

The consensus of the committee was to go forward with the Block Party and members will research information from other communities and contact

residents that have had previous block parties in Morton Grove. This will be a way to bring the community together and meet their neighbors.

The Photo contest has not had a lot of participation these last two contest entries. The committee does not put a lot of time into this program but cutting back to two contest dates occurring in the summer would probably create more entries. Ms. Liston stated the previous entries from the last two years will be used for banners along Dempster St this year and could also create more entries once these are visible. Entries should be made easier to submit; perhaps a hashtag on line and voting could be done a lot faster as opposed to waiting a month. The themes and entry presentation will be addressed at the next meeting.

Ms. Travis announced the Neighborhood Outreach is February 20, 2020 and the location is not finalized yet. Anyone that can attend to greet residents is welcomed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes by Janet Sheehan