

## **Minutes of the February 14, 2017**

### **Meeting of the Community Relations Commission**

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 6:30 pm. on February 14, 2017, by Chairperson Arcelia Pimentel.

Members of the Commission present: Burkhart, Downing, John, Laliwala, Murphy, Pimentel,

Members of the Commission absent: Varghese, Mok, Cha, Pellicano, Engel

Board of Trustees Members: Connie Travis, Village Clerk

Members of Village Staff present: Teresa Hoffman Liston, Corporation Counsel

Guests: Elizabeth Jones, Mike Simo

Chairperson Pimentel announced the first order of business was approval of the meeting minutes of January 10, 2017. Commissioner Laliwala moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Downing seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mike Simo, Police Chief, was introduced to the CRC and gave a recap of the recent event that took place in Morton Grove on January 29, 2017. The event was “Empowering Diverse Community” and was a scheduled walk thru Morton Grove. The walk began on Menard and headed north to Dempster, west to Fernald and south to Capulina, and ending at the starting point at the Muslim Community Center on Menard. The police dept was scheduled in all areas to handle the crowd which estimated a total of 1500 – 2000 participants. Simo added that when events like this take place, professional agitators find out and will show up and try to cause problems but fortunately this did not happen. For future events like this the police dept needs to be involved with the planning in order to prevent any problems. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a similar event that takes a lot of man power and overtime in order to prevent any incidents.

Elizabeth Jones, the pastor at St Lukes Church, reviewed her plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual peace vigil on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May in conjunction with the Farmers Market at the Civic Center. Ms. Liston added that this sounds like a joint effort with other houses of worship and something that the commission would like to get involved with. Ms. Jones will reach out to the other houses of worship and then contact the CRC and inform what areas that the commission can do to support this effort.

The sub-committee for this vigil is: Pimentel, John, Downing

#### **2017 INITIATIVES UPDATES:**

##### **Adopt a Planter Project**

Ms. Pimentel reviewed the dates with June 3 to pick up plants, and have the sub-committee formalize more details for this program. Pimentel will contact the sub-committee members and meet prior to next month's meeting to project a timeline.

#### **Farmer's Market Table**

Ms. Pimentel stated Commissioner Cha has all the dates and information and will discuss at next month's meeting.

#### **Village Photo Contest**

Ms. Pimentel would like the members of the commission to participate in the judging. The winners will be announced at the March 13 board meeting.

#### **Community Garage Sale**

None

#### **Community Art Performance**

Ms. Pimentel reviewed the dates with the panel meeting the end of February, try-out dates on February 22 and March 4. The event is scheduled for April 22.

#### **Community Outreach**

Ms. Travis stated the dates for 2017 are: March 16, June 15 and Sept 21. The next outreach is scheduled for March 16 at the Civic Center. The commissioners that signed up for the March 16 outreach are Laliwala and John.

#### **New Program/Initiatives**

The peace vigil is scheduled for May 13 and participation for the commissions will be forthcoming.

#### **Audience Comments**

None

Pimentel announced the next scheduled meeting is March 14, 2017.

Pimentel asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Downing moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Burkhardt seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved pursuant to a voice vote at 7:32 pm.

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Minutes by Janet Sheehan

