

## **Minutes of the September 13, 2016**

### **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 September 13, 2016, by Chairperson Arcelia Pimentel.

Members of the Commission present: Burkhardt, Cha, Engles, Laliwala, Pimentel, Pelicano

Members of the Commission absent: Mok, Varghese

Board of Trustees Members: Connie Travis, Village Clerk

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

Guests: Eric Poders, JoAnn Rapp, Nancy Murphy

Chairperson Pimentel introduced the newest member of the Community Relations Commissions, Sue Pelicano.

Chairperson Pimentel announced the first order of business was approval of the meeting minutes of July 12, 2016. Commissioner Cha pointed out there should be a correction in the spelling from fur trees, to fir trees and moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Engles seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### **2016 INITIATIVES UPDATES:**

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

Ms. Pimentel reviewed the success of the adopt a planter program, commenting on the beauty of the flowers along Dempster and at the train station. There will be surveys sent out to the participants and Pimentel asked for any suggestions that could be added to the survey. Ms. Liston added she received only two suggestions.

Ms. Pimentel continued, asking what should be the next phase of this project; let the planters dry out and ask those responsible for the pots to remove the foliage or should the Village be responsible to clean up. Ms. Liston added that when the survey is sent out, there could be a request to remove the foliage for each individual planter.

Commissioner Burkhardt asked if this project continues, the pots should be watered more frequently than 3 x's a week. Ms. Liston will pass this suggestion on to the public works director.

Commissioner Pelicano asked what the goal of the adopt a planter program was and who funded it. Ms. Pimentel replied the goal is to get community involvement. Participants included residents, schools and

businesses. Continuing, she added the flowers were supplied by the village and each participant chose the selection of flowers and planted them in a specific numbered pot in their own type of arrangement. Pimentel was thinking of adding some mums to her flower pot to spruce it up. Engels added this could be a fall project and mums could be used. Ms. Liston stated the Village does not have the funds for this. Laliwala added there should be a question added to the survey asking if participants are willing to pay a fee to fund the program. Liston added that sponsorship should be a topic for the next adopt a planter program.

#### Farmers Market

The schedule for the volunteers for last CRC participation in the Farmers Market on September 17 was reviewed.

#### Village Photo Contest

Pimentel announced the winners have been selected from the summer contest and will be announced at the next board meeting on September 26. There has not been a date set for the next contest. Ms. Liston suggested the fall contest should start on October 1<sup>st</sup> and end December 2<sup>nd</sup> and then the winners could be announced at the December board meeting.

Ms. Pimentel asked if contestants would be able to submit prints as not everyone has the digital abilities. Liston responded yes and will update the rules and send them to all the members.

Ms. Liston explained this photo contest is for people to show what their vision is of Morton Grove, going along with the village logo, "Incredibly Close, Amazingly Open".

#### Community Garage Sale

Ms. Pimentel reviewed the garage sale and its purpose to get residents to meet their neighbors and get the community together. Ms. Liston said there have been 80 participants registered and will be on the GIS map provided to anyone that wants to find where the sales are located. Continuing, Liston suggested that when the CRC gets the schedule for the 2017 calendar year meetings, the dates for repeated events could be set and anyone that wants to participate could mark their calendars in advance so as not to have conflicting events. Burkhart suggested the maps for the garage sales could be available at the Farmers Market.

#### Neighborhood Outreach

Ms. Travis announced the next Neighborhood Outreach is September 21 at Parkview School. Engels volunteered to attend and provide assistance at the greeting table. Liston explained the village hosts a Neighborhood Outreach 4x's each year at different locations throughout the village for residents to meet staff and direct any questions that they may have.

#### Other Business

## Worship Walk

Worship Walk will be held on September 24 from 9:30 am - 11:00 am. Burkhart explained there are 4 houses of worship that will participate with 3 stops on the route. The walk will begin at the Morton Grove Community Church with the first stop at the Farmers Market. The route will continue to St Martha's with the last stop at the Muslim Education Center.

## Administrative Oversight of the CRC Facebook page

Ms Liston reviewed the Facebook pages that the village currently has: Police, Village, and CRC. The CRC page was developed in 2011 and does not have the current village logo. Mr. Czerwinski, Village Administrator, would like all the social media to reflect the same information. Czerwinski established a policy for all village media that includes all editing and log in privileges will be by the Village Administrator and the IT Director. The Chairperson of the CRC will also be allowed access to the Facebook page.

Commissioner Cha gave a brief background and history of the Facebook page that was created in 2011 and includes 200 followers. It is updated with current events that involve the village Cha added she is the only administrator to the page. Mr. Czerwinski added that the policy needs to be followed with a consistent message on all social media. Ms. Liston pre-approval process will be thru Ms. Pimentel before information is posted. Continuing she added this transition may take some time, but it will be a positive step forward.

## Additional Members

Ms. Pimentel added the committee is still looking for more members to join the CRC. The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2016.

## Audience Comments

Eric Poders suggested the CRC reach out to the schools for the photo contest, create a village wide calendar with events including churches and schools, and recreate the CRC Facebook page.

Pimentel asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Pelicano moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cha seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved pursuant to a voice vote at 7:45 pm.

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Minutes by Janet Sheehan

