

Minutes of the March 14, 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 6:00 pm. on March 14, 2015, by Chairperson Arcelia Pimentel.

Members of the Commission present: Burkhardt, Cha, Engles, Mok, Varughese, Pimentel

Members of the Commission absent: Younana, Laliwala

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, Pat Smolek, Jerry Dimalie

Chairperson Pimentel announced the first order of business was approval of the meeting minutes of February 9, 2016. Chairperson Engles moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mok seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved by voice vote.

2016 INITIATIVES UPDATES:

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

March 16, 2016 6:00 pm. American Legion Memorial Civic Center

Clerk Travis reviewed the information for the CRC table that will be available at the Outreach event:

1. Adopt a Planter Program (including maps of locations)
2. Photo Contest
3. Emergency Alert Sign up

A volunteer sign-up sheet for the Neighborhood Outreach was distributed to the members; volunteers were asked to report at 5:45. Currently Commissioners Mok and Commissioners Engles have volunteered.

ADOPT A PLANTER PROGRAM

Chairperson Pimentel introduced the adopt a planter program (85 total planters) and gave an overview:

1. Sign up
2. starter kit provided
3. planting dates May 14 and May 15

4. Guidelines for care and custom additions
5. Info on posted on website, newsletter and face book

Ms. Liston suggested the CRC group survey the planters and walk down Dempster passing out fliers and ask businesses if they would like to adopt a planter directly in front of their location.

Clerk Travis outlined the “tier level” of planting:

Tier 1: Metra Station Tier 2: Civic Center Tier 3: Dempster west to Austin

That would include 42 planters ending at Austin and if there is enough response, it would be opened to continue the planters down Dempster.

Guest Pat Smolek from the Morton Grove Garden Club will be available for advice and suggestions.

More detail and logistics will be mapped out at the next CRC meeting.

FARMERS MARKET

Commissioner Cha created a sign-up sheet for the CRC booth at the Farmers Market. There will be 2 shifts, 8 am – 10 am, and 10 am – noon. The dates are as follows and the sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

July 16 August 20 September 17

Ms. Cha will inquire if the CRC can also have a booth at the May 7 Farmers Market.

VILLAGE PHOTO CONTEST

Chairperson Pimentel reviewed the Spring 2016 photo contest with a June 1, 2016 deadline. Contest will be open to all Morton Grove residents, businesses and employees. Contestants will email their photo and registration/release form. Ms. Pimentel contacted Niles West High School and received a receptive response and agreed to pass out flyers to students for participation. All local high schools will be contacted and invited to participate. Winners will be announced at the June 27, 2016 Board meeting.

Ralph Czerwinski, Village Administrator, added that the recognition for the winners will include: photo display within the Village Hall lobby, announcements at the board meeting, photo displays at the 4th of July information booth and on the Village website.

Commissioner Varughese asked who is going to judge the photos. Ms. Liston thought this should be up to the committee to decide the rules. Currently the Commissioners on the committee are Engles and Varughese.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on the House of Worship Walk

Commissioner Burkhart reported the group is undecided if this event will be a walk or an open house. The date for this event is targeted for September 2016. Burkhart also added that there is a follow up event from several months ago "Together we stand against bigotry", this Sunday March 20, at Fountain Stand in Evanston.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Eric Poders suggested that the EDC should have contact information for the businesses on Dempster St. This information would be helpful if the Committee should choose to walk the corridor to pass out flyers for the Adopt a Planter Program. Poders also suggested having name badges with the Village logo so the businesses would recognize the Village affiliation.

Chair Pimental announced the next CRC meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 6:30 pm.

Pimentel asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Engles moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Varughese seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved pursuant to a voice vote at 6:50 pm.

Minutes by Janet Sheehan