

## **Minutes of the February 9, 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 7:00 pm. on February 9, 2015, by Chairperson Arcelia Pimentel.

Members of the Commission present: Burkhart, Cha, Engles, Mok, Varghese, Pimentel

Board of Trustees Members: Connie Travis, Village Clerk

Members of Village Staff present: Teresa Hoffman-Liston, Corporation Council

Guests: Eric Poders

Chairperson Arcie began the meeting with a brief introduction to the committee and the commissioners welcomed her and each introduced themselves.

Chairperson Arcie announced the first order of business was approval of the meeting minutes of November 10, 2015. Chairperson Arcie moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved by voice vote.

The board welcomed a new member, Enisa Laliwala.

#### **Communication and Resident Involvement**

Ms. Liston explained this is the opportunity for round table discussion and if there were any letters, comments or issues that could be discussed.

Commissioner Cha reviewed the history of the Community Relations Commissions face book page, which was established 4 years ago and there are now 200 “likes”. There is more that could be added and expand. Liston stated the Village face book page has about 900 followers, and if there are things to be promoted it should be coordinated with the Village.

#### **2016 Initiatives**

##### **Neighborhood Outreach**

Ms. Travis reviewed the last Neighborhood Outreach and the next one will be March 16, 2016 at Austin Park. Volunteers are needed to host and greet residents as they arrive. There will be some handouts and giveaways at the table for members to pass out. There will also be a sign up sheets for the emergency call list.

##### **Farmers Market**

Chairperson Pimentel reviewed the dates, June thru October, and would like to make the CRC table more of a draw for residents with more informational material. Commissioner Cha will coordinate the volunteers for four dates. The banner from previous years was located, but Ms. Liston said there are funds for a new banner with the Village's new logo.

Ms. Pimentel stated handouts need to be updated and Ms. Liston added this committee should focus on the purpose of our presence at the market. Commissioner Burkhart added the purpose of the committee is an arm of the Village and thought recycling should be a topic that can be conveyed. Liston stated that Environmental Health Committee has a table at the market and has that information.

Commissioner Laliwala asked if there is more information available for Block Parties. Ms. Liston said this would be information that could be available at the Neighborhood Outreach and it is also on the Village website.

#### Village Tagline Photo Contest

Ms. Pimentel reviewed the Village Tagline photo contest for surrounding high schools to participate and submit their photos that depict the new Village tagline, "Incredibly Close" and "Amazingly Open". This is open to the community for adults also. Pimentel asked for input and the dates to begin the contest. Ms. Liston added that the CRC's function is to develop a structure, judging criteria and promote this to the public. Continuing, Liston invited some members of the committee to come to a Village board meeting which are televised and this would be a great way to promote the contest. Once this takes off, the contest would be twice a year.

Ms. Pimentel called for volunteers to develop a structure for this contest. The following will meet prior to the next meeting and lay out the ground rules and judging criteria for the contest:

Varghese, Engles, Liston, Pimentel

#### Adopt a Planter Project

Ms. Pimentel gave an overview of the project and the purpose to beautify the community and reach out to groups and businesses to adopt a planter along the Dempster roadways. These planters would be maintained thru the summer with specific types of flowers that would keep it uniform and greenery for the winter months. The sponsor of the individual planter will put a signature plaque with their name depicting their sponsorship which will encourage the maintenance. Public Works will water the planters on a regular schedule during the summer months.

Ms. Liston stated the Public Works dept is currently mapping out the number of planters along Dempster and will be available at the next CRC meeting. Continuing, Liston added this will help to beautify Morton Grove and encourage people to view the planters along the roadway. The goal is to create community pride, not necessarily a contest. The CRC can decide if this is something that would be of interest to the committee. The flowers could be provided or an allotted amount could be granted to the sponsor to purchase their own array, with specific types of plants limited to the selection.

Ms. Pimentel called for a vote from the committee and it was unanimous by voice vote.

Ms. Liston will reach out to the Garden Club for advice on what types of flowers to plant. This project will need ground rules; when to begin, registration, who to reach out to, where to advertise, voting for favorites. This will be discussed at the next meeting once the count is received from Public Works. Adding, if this project takes off, the planting and voting could be done by June and the winner announced at the Morton Grove Days 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

#### OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Burkhardt introduced the idea of an interfaith walk across the community with the purpose for all to see and gain understanding of each other's place of worship. Continuing, there may be permits necessary and the hope for the Village to get involved and sponsor this event. There is also the idea of each house of worship hosting an open house and concluding with a gathering at one location and recapping the visitations. Ms. Liston thought this was a great idea that the houses of worship should coordinate and the CRC could promote it and provide publicity.

Burkhardt asked if there was a special permit necessary for this walk. Ms. Liston stated the Village is currently working on an ordinance for a special event and protocol. This would be for any event or gathering that involves the use of public property, streets, sidewalks, parks, right of way, or requires special Village services such as police protection or traffic control. This would then involve a special use permit that the group which is hosting it would apply for. Ms. Liston suggested speaking with Burkhardt one on one and then presenting the idea to the committee to promote this event.

Chairperson Pimentel asked if there were any volunteers that would like to get involved with this event.

Cha, Engles, Mok, Varghese

#### GUEST AND AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Eric Poders commented that out of the 50+ meetings he has attended this one has the most diversity represented than those he has ever seen. Poders added this committee is on the forefront for making some great changes.

Pimentel asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Engles moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mok seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved pursuant to a voice vote at 8:35 pm.

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Minutes by Janet Sheehan