

Record of Special Meeting
Citizen Involvement Commission (CIC)
Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Village Hall, room 101

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Pond called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Robbie Erickson, Curtis Lott, Sandra Novack-Gottshall, Erika Washington, and Chair ProTem Frank Pond.

Absent: Commissioners Emily Masalski, Conrad Terry, and Chair John Troelstrup.

Also present: Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

III. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Lott and seconded by Commissioner Novack-Gottshall to approve the agenda for November 6, 2019. A voice vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Lott and seconded by Commissioner Erickson to approve the minutes from September 4, 2019. A voice vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

V. Public Comment

There was none.

VI. Applicant Interviews:

- Talley Hann, Community Relations Commission
Ms. Hann is an ex-teacher, holds a Masters in Special Education, and is the proprietor of a Therapeutic Day School. Her goal is to provide access to equitable educational resources for ages 1-5.
- Victoria Ferrarini, Disability Access Commission
Ms. Ferrarini is an Oak Park native now raising her daughter in Oak Park. As a visually impaired adult she is a strong advocate of disability access policy.
- Terry Herbstritt, Disability Access Commission
Mr. Herbstritt is a native Oak Parker who returned to Oak Park 19 years ago with his family. He has a son with autism and works at PACTT where his son is a client. He is passionate about education that works to reduce stigma for people of disabilities. He understands how isolating having a disability can be and challenges regarding access to resources.
- Ravi Parakkat, Environment & Energy Commission
Mr. Parakkat lives here with his family including three kids. He is a consultant for clean energy. He has volunteered his time extensively to help agencies develop a clean energy strategic plan.

- Susan Subak, Environment & Energy Commission
Ms. Subak grew up in Oak Park and believes Oak Park could be further along in reducing greenhouse gases. She is passionate about education and believes we should have clear goals for the future and represent being a leader in sustainability for other communities.
- Ramona Blaber, Environment & Energy Commission
Ms. Blaber was born in Oak Park and has only recently returned. She has volunteered extensively with a passion for furthering sustainability policy. She sees opportunity for collaboration in Oak Park for progress.
- Monique Chase, Historic Preservation Commission
Ms. Chase has a Master's degree in Historic Preservation. She was attracted to moving to Oak Park because of her appreciation for Frank Lloyd Wright architecture.
- Andrew Elders, Historic Preservation Commission
Mr. Elders is an Architectural Historian/Preservationist. He is interested in adaptive reuse of historical buildings while still preserving the character of the Village. Mr. Elders has spoken before the Village Board to advocate for preservation of historical structures in the Village.

VII. Reports

- **Vacancy Report**

Clerk Scaman provided a brief update on current vacancies, recent appointments, and resignations. The commission highlighted the ongoing need for recruitment to the Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC). Clerk Scaman suggested some commissions would benefit from having a waitlist so that resignations do not interfere with progress of a commission. The Citizen Police Oversight Committee (CPOC) and Disability Access Commission (DAC) are two that were mentioned specifically; noting that confusion regarding the purpose of the commission can contribute to volunteers resigning. CIC discussed the historical understanding of when and for what purpose CPOC was formed and value of Police forums hosted with the Community Relations Department (Cedric Melton) and zone meetings as part of the Community Policing model. Other commissions that were identified for proactive recruitment included the Farmers Market and potentially the Liquor Control Review Board.

- **Commission Liaison Reports**

Commission Liaison Report: Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)

Submitted by: CIC Commissioner Erika Washington

Meeting Date: September 18, 2019 [Village webpage](#)

Mission: The Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee formulates recommendations to the Village Board for the annual allocation of Federal Community Development Block Grant funds for public service, administration, property and infrastructure improvements, and economic revitalization activities targeted to low and moderate income individuals. The committee also evaluates requests and makes recommendations

for [Emergency Solutions Grants](#), which pay for services intended to ameliorate or eliminate homelessness.

Report:

The CDCAC welcomed its new chair, Stephen Morales, who hails from the Environment & Energy Commission. Introductions were done by each commissioner in addition to a check-in by Village Staff member Tammy Grossman prior to the meeting.

The commission discussed its work plan for 2020; which included the addition of ideas for more outreach to inform more groups about the availability of grant funding offered. There was also discussion about the breadth of the work done and a suggestion that the commissioners become more involved earlier on in the grant application process rather than primarily focusing on a handful of selected candidates to interview and award grants. The commission next meets March 2020 for the grant award process.

Commission Liaison Report: Disability Access Commission (DAC)

Submitted by: CIC Commissioner Robbie Erickson

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019 [Village website](#)

Mission: The Disability Access Commission advises the Village Board on public policies to facilitate full participation in community activities by persons with disabilities, to bring persons with disabilities into the mainstream of Oak Park life by recognizing that persons with disabilities can lead proud and productive lives, to promote universal access throughout the Village and to heighten public awareness to the needs of Villagers with disabilities.

Report: Commissioner Erickson confirmed that the Disability Access Commission (DAC) is experiencing challenges after recent resignations, identifying a clear purpose, and recruiting members that have a lived experience with a disability. DAC would benefit from strategic planning and researching what other Oak Park governing bodies do around disability access. Members of the commission also mentioned resources that can be shared by NAMI.

Members of CIC discussed the advantages of having commissioners with different lived experiences on commissions. Additionally the differing level of leadership and support provided by staff liaisons was noted. The intention of CIC liaisons was originally to provide support to commissions overall. Prior to 2017, the role of CIC liaisons had essentially been replaced by stronger staff liaisons and the Village Clerks Office. In 2018, CIC surveyed commission Chairs on their need to reengage with CIC liaisons. The response varied but for most it was decided that CIC liaisons would be welcome. The expectation was to visit the commissions that requested a CIC liaison approximately twice a year.

VIII. Work Plan Updates

- **CIC Work Plan 2020**

Members of CIC reviewed the draft 2020 Work Plan with proposed budget expenses.

IX. New Business

- **Applicant Discussion**

After discussion, Commissioner Washington moved to recommend the applicants to the commission for which they interviewed, in the order that they were presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Erickson. A voice vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

X. Adjourn

Commissioner Novack-Gottshall moved to adjourn. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved. Chair ProTem Pond adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Village Clerk Vicki Scaman