

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
June 19th– 7:00 PM
VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101**

PRESENT: Commissioners Grimes, Benkert, Kill, Puentes, Hovde, Rodriguez, Brewer

ABSENT: Commissioner Green

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chair Brewer briefly discussed the process for development of the agenda. Commissioner Kill motioned for agenda approval with Commissioner Hovde providing a second.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tabled for corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Peddokotla spoke on her view of equity training modules and offered her thoughts that National League of Cities training is not comparable to what GARE offers in terms of training. She restated the need for equity training to be conducted. She also referenced data she had received regarding police traffic stops and encouraged commissioners to read it as it reflects Oak Park stops are not reflective of the Village's population. Terry Keleher was in attendance at the meeting and discussed the importance of using racial equity tools in Village practices.

PARADE: Commissioner Rodriguez and resident Tom Zapler discussed their involvement with parade activities. The need for volunteers was discussed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the CRC would march in the parade with a banner. Four commissioners will march. Registration is nearing eighty groups as of tonight reported by the Community Relations Department. There was a discussion of participating bands. Director Melton announced that the Lakeside Pride Marching band would be participating as well as a band accompanying State Representative Camille Lilly.

Dinner and Dialogue: Commissioners Grimes and Puentes discussed the new dinner flyer developed in coordination with the Communications department. Commissioners Grimes and Puentes discussed widening the scope of the dinners to revisit various topics other than race. Involving other communities in dinner activity was also mentioned. There was also discussion of enhancing the ground rules for the dinners.

DAY IN OUR VILLAGE: The group discussed their experience at the festival and everyone agreed that the event was positive and the group collected index cards from festival goers citing their reasons for choosing Oak Park as a place to live. The cards were collected and will be used in a future display.

RACIAL EQUITY: There was wide ranging discussion on this topic. Trustees Boutet and Peddokotla discussed the importance of the Village using equity frameworks and hopes that the board will not delay incorporating the frameworks as time is of the essence. Chair Brewer said he will have a discussion with Mayor Abu-Taleb regarding the board's position on the racial equity issue. Trustee Boutet said an education piece for the board is needed as the issue is firmly in the lap of the Village Board. Trustee Peddokotla suggested the CRC could draft a racial equity policy much like the recent document produced by the Aging commission. After more discussion, Chair Brewer suggested the CRC could begin working on a draft racial equity policy per the CRC work plan. It was mentioned that Evanston has recently adopted a racial equity policy as well as joined GARE. It was also determined that commissioners Kill and Benkert would explore next steps in terms of communications regarding racial equity with the Village Manager. Commissioner Kill motioned for the formation of a subcommittee to work on a draft racial equity policy. Commissioner Hovde provided a second with all in favor. The subcommittee is comprised of commissioners Kill, Hovde, Grimes and Chair Brewer. The group agreed to meet on July 10th at 7pm in Room 101.

Adjourn: Commissioner Kill motioned, second by Commissioner Benkert.