

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
June 6, 2022 – 7:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Comms. Brewer, Bencola, Quinn, Rodriguez, Sakiyama, Terretta, Trustee Enyia

ABSENT: Comm. Hughes, Puentes

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:35p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda was approved by consensus

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS: CRC 2022 Work Plan – Partnership Opportunity – Food Aid 2022

Trustee Enyia introduced the topic. Oak Park residents Donnie Biggins and Anthony Clark seek to bring awareness to food insecurities and to raise funds to help other organizations such as the Oak Park Food Pantry, Beyond Hunger, and Unity Fridges. Dates and times for the events were provided. Funds raised will be donated to one of the three aforementioned entities.

Discussions centered around from what line item in the work plan will the funds be taken; how much; making sure that protocol is followed; and what documentation to use.

Chrmn. Brewer thinks that the CRC can provide \$500 from the Partnership line item of the work plan, using the donation as a potential placeholder for greater involvement with future activities. Comm. Bencola was support of the program but asked if funding can be pulled from the grant program line item. Chrmn. Brewer offered that the grant program requires an application process but if the \$50 from the Partnership line item can be used as a place holder, then next year could possibly allow for a larger amount. Comm. Bencola related that the grant program could be available and not as onerous for some organizations. The question was asked how can the process for grants be responsive for opportunities that pop up.

Comm. Rodriguez related that the wording in the grant leaves things open so clarity is being asked about what the need is for the event. It would be unfair to smaller organizations to have to go through the process. The question was asked what does Food Aide need financial support or volunteers and how much. Trustee Enyia responded both.

Chrmn. Brewer related that technically, Food Aid is not asking for money but that they are looking for the CRC to be a co-sponsor. The Village cannot be a co-sponsor but the CRC can. Chrmn. Brewer did not ask [the Village] about spending the grant money. Per Chrmn. Brewer while the money is important, the amount is not that critical. TR Enyia related that they are asking for \$2500 if it is available. Meeting members were informed that there will have to be some information provided in order to generate funds. The CRC has a grant application packet which it used previously. Chrmn. Brewer suggested that a motion to vote on the amount be made that TR. Enyia help with getting the application filled out. Comm. Rodriguez expressed concern that the process be the same across the board for all organizations who seek funding. Comm. Brewer reiterated his suggestion for using the Partnership funds so that the CRC won't have to change the process for the Food Aid group. Again, this give the CRC time to get a place holder and time to rearrange the budget.

Dir. Melton suggested a partnership agreement. TR. Enyia will check to see if there is a sponsorship packet. Tr. Enyia informed the CRC that \$10,000 was a requirement from WBEZ and that the Food Aid group has \$7500. TR. Enyia was asked about the flow of the funds and if the hard requirement was funding vs. volunteer. Per TR. Enyia, they want the partnership through funding and they would love the help of the CRC and what they can bring to the event. Harmonica Don is used as the talent Booker. Suburban Unity Alliance is the non-profit organization which has received funds before for Juneteenth. Per TR. Enyia, according to Pres. Scaman, the funds do not have to necessarily go to a non-profit, but there will be receipts.

Comm. Sakiyama related that this is an opportunity for the CRC but that there is a process to be followed for which the details need to be ironed out. The funds are already allocated so the CRC should utilize them and invest in Food Aid. GB asked for a motion to partner with the Food Aide subject to the proper submission of documentation so that a request to release funds can be made to the Village. Clarity was given on who can receive the grant funds.

A motion was made by Comm. Sakiyama to fund \$2500 subject to sufficient documentation and evaluation per the previously mentioned scoring process. A roll call vote was taken with all six of the present commissioners in favor.

It was determined that the grant application packet will be updated to reflect the current year and that Trustee Enyia will get the forms completed and returned to Dir. Melton and Chrmn. Brewer for review and submission to the Village Manager for release of funds.

Chrmn. Brewer announced the Village Manager and HR Director will attend the 6/15 CRC meeting to discuss the CRC's vies on the racial equity tool kit. Dir. Melton will contact the Village Manager and HR Dir to inform them that they are on the agenda. Chrmn. Brewer also announced that this term as chairperson has ended but he will stay on until someone else is appointed. Due to his upcoming schedule he may, from time to time, ask others to chair the meetings.

Next meeting will be virtual on 6/20/2022. Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Bencola. Meeting adjourned at 8:33p.m.