

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 19th, 2023
Village Hall Rm 201 @ 6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Comms. Rodriguez, Puentes, Sakiyama, Quinn, Griffin,

ABSENT: Comm. Terretta. Comm. Bencola

STAFF: Cassandra Adediran, Dr. Danielle Walker

CALL TO ORDER: 6:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Comm Sakiyama; seconded by Comm Quinn

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from 5/31/2023 made by Comm. Quinn and seconded by Comm. Sakiyama. Motion to approve minutes from 6/21/2023 made by Comm. Quinn and seconded by Comm. Sakiyama.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Part I of the training on the Racial Equity Toolkit was provided by Dr. Danielle Walker, Chief DEI Officer for the Village of Oak Park. An explanation was given on topics which included Engagement Norms, Purpose of a Racial Equity Tool, Difference Between Equity and Equality, Race as a Social Construct, and the Six (6) Steps of Racial Equity Toolkit Process. It was further explained that a racial equity toolkit is both a product and a process. The Commission was encouraged to incorporate the racial equity toolkit as it considers policies, programs, and practices while serving the Village of Oak Park.

The top takeaways for the Racial Equity Toolkit Training:

- ❖ Words matter
- ❖ Leading with race is an “AND”, not an “ONLY”
- ❖ Remember the C’s - “Community”, “Connection”, and Oak Park “CARES.”
- ❖ Learning something new takes practice

Comm. Rodriguez asked if the Racial Equity Toolkit is currently being used at the Village Board level. Per Dr. Walker, yes, it is embedded and the DEI office team reviews all agenda items where applicable.

Comm. Griffin asked if the Racial Equity Toolkit has already been worked with. Comm. Rodriguez explained that the CRC has been trying to get the Racial Equity Toolkit. Comm. Griffin commented that the Racial Equity Toolkit can inform not only the CRC work but the work in other areas, e.g., the Library [System], with family, in the community.

Part II of the training on the Racial Equity Toolkit will be scheduled for a future meeting, prior to the end of the year.

The CRC meeting then continued into the CRC Mini Grant Informational session. The CRC Mini Grant Informational session was conducted in person by Chairperson Rodriguez and via Zoom, with a recorded version being made available after the meeting. One member from the public was physically present and four members of the public were on the Zoom platform.

Prospective Grantees seeking to apply for the mini grant were given the program overview and were made aware of:

- ❖ Guidelines
- ❖ Use of Funds
- ❖ Reports & Evaluations
- ❖ Expectations
- ❖ Timelines for application submission, approval, and disbursement

Questions about the mini grant programs were answered during the recorded presentation but will also be posted as part of the FAQ for the program.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm Sakiyama. Meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.