



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 124**

I. Call to Order

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Jill Eid, Ron Elling, Curtis Lott, Carollina Song and Chair Greg Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Annemarie Kill, Drew Miller, Ron Roman, Sheila Wesonga

Also present: Village Clerk Christina Waters

III. Agenda Approval

Chair Kolar requested to change the order of Items D and E. Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Elling moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2023 meeting as presented; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. Commissioner Lott moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting as presented; Commissioner Song seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. Commissioner Eid and Chair Kolar abstained.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. New Business

A) A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be Considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:

- a. Adebayo Owolewa – Housing Programs Advisory Committee
- b. Michael Blaise Denton – Housing Programs Advisory Committee
- c. Jason Nudelman – Transportation Commission
- d. Jason Jenkins – Transportation Commission
- e. Jack Eskin – Transportation Commission

Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved.

Adebayo Owolewa – Housing Programs Advisory Committee

Received his law and business degrees from University of Virginia. Worked in banking in Charlotte, NC, Richmond, VA, and Chicago. Moved to Oak Park in April 2022 and plans to stay here. Grew up in a low-income community and understands the importance of housing and how high property taxes can be exclusive. Uses his experiences to act as a bridge between different communities and socioeconomic statuses. Treasurer of the Polite Community Redevelopment Corporation.

Michael Blaise Denton – Housing Programs Advisory Committee

Goes by the name Blaise. Moved to Oak Park in August 2022. Has a masters degree. Did education and policy programs for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Former research manager for the Florida Housing Coalition and has grant writing and management experience. Acknowledged the work of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and Oak Park as one of only a few racially integrated communities.

Jason Nudelman – Transportation Commission

Moved to Oak Park in December 2012. Has been a mail carrier for 11 years. Has been living car-free in Oak Park since 2014. Interested in learning from other communities for how Oak Park can improve, such as raised sidewalks, more protected bike lanes with concrete, and Divvy bikes. Agrees with Vision Zero plan for Oak Park. Member of Bike Walk Oak Park.

Jason Jenkins – Transportation Commission

Moved to Oak Park in 2020. Has worked with Active Transportation Alliance since 2008. Worked for Darrow Bike Racks. Wants to contribute to make Oak Park more bikeable and walkable. Excited to see the implementation of Vision Zero and add his voice to the Commission pushing back on some of the enforcement and their cognizance of racial disparities. Supports the built environment and balancing the needs of the community.

Jack Eskin – Transportation Commission

Urban planner who works for transportation consultant firm HNTB. Has a masters in urban planning from UIC. Was Deputy Director of Redevelopment for the City of Gary, Indiana. Oversaw climate resiliency work for Delta Institute. Currently working on projects for IDOT, Metra, and CDOT and oversees grant writing for Cook County, City of Chicago, and Pace. Interested in integrating community and environmental planning into transportation projects overlaying with climate resiliency. Moved to Oak Park in 2019.

B) Review of Vacancy Report

Chair Kolar said the Commission is prioritizing filling vacancies for the Building Code Advisory, Community Design, Transportation, and Housing Programs Advisory Commissions. Commissioner Kill requested to brainstorm recruitment strategies at the next meeting.

- C) Review of Appointments Report from the March 20, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
The commission reviewed the appointments.

VII. Executive Session

- D) 5 ILCS 120/(c)(1) – Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the appointment recommendations of volunteers to the Village of Oak Park’s advisory commissions, committees and boards.
Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 8:47 P.M.

VIII. Reconvene to Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 9:02 P.M.

IX. New Business Continued

- E) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Adebayo Owolewa to the Housing Programs Advisory Committee
Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.
- F) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Michael Blaise Denton to the Housing Programs Advisory Committee
Commissioner Elling moved; Commissioner Song seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.
- G) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jason Nudelman to the Transportation Commission
Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.
- H) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jason Jenkins to the Transportation Commission
Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.
- I) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jack Eskin to the Transportation Commission
Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Elling seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

X. Old Business

- J) Discussion of Citizen Involvement Commission Member assignments at upcoming Recruitment Events (Juneteenth Event, Day in Our Village, Go Green Days, Barrie Fest, Thursday Night Out, etc.)
- K) Discussion of the 2023 Work Plan group assignments

XI. Adjourn

Commissioner Lott moved to adjourn; Commissioner Song seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Hansen, Deputy Village Clerk