

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION  
January 16, 2013– 7:00 PM  
VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Cecil Hunt, Swati Saxena, Serena Brewer, Frank Vozak, Brad Foreman, Yvonne Benson

**STAFF:** Cedric Melton

**STAFF LIAISON:** Trustee Ray Johnson, Charlene Jones-Foster (CIC)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:09PM

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Commissioner Benson motioned for agenda approval with Commissioner Foreman providing a second.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Foreman motioned for acceptance of November minutes with Commissioner Benson providing a second. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Ms. Meghan Paulus attended the meeting and expressed her desire to serve on the commission and observed the proceedings. Mr. Jamil Rafia also attended and expressed interest in possible service to the commission. Mr. Brad Bartels addressed the CRC regarding OPALGA's one night reading of the play, "8" which will be held at the Arts Center of Oak Park on March 10, 2013. Mr. Bartels visit was to ask the commission for non-financial sponsorship of the play. The group agreed in principal to support the effort. Mr. Melton agreed to put Mr. Bartels in touch with other staff with relevant responsibility as to protocols on commission sponsorship of such an event.

**COMMISSIONER TERMS:** There was brief discussion regarding the expiration of three commissioner's terms and the need to strongly recruit some "new blood" for participation. CIC liaison Jones-Foster committed to working with the Chair on this effort.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Brief discussion was held regarding assignments to tasks on the 2013 work plan. Due to some terms being up, there was limited decision at this meeting; however, two assignments were solidified. Frank Vozak will serve as lead person for Diversity Dinners. Swati Saxena is point person for Day in Our Village activities.

**NOVEMBER DINNER REPORT:** Chair Hunt reported for absent Commissioner Michalski that the dinner was very entertaining and led to a spin off group that agreed to hold another dinner to build on the November event in late January. Commissioner Benson will contact the couple interested in hosting the February 27<sup>th</sup> dinner too see if they are still willing to host. Mr. Melton submitted to Chair Hunt contact info for a resident who emailed him interest in hosting a dinner.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Evaluation of the Diversity Dinners was once again discussed. Commissioner Benson reviewed the possibility of engaging policy planning interns from a local college or grad school to put together an evaluation for the program. The group agreed that this would be a good resource to strengthen and customize the project. Benson will communicate with the school and make formal request for using the interns.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:14PM.

Cedric Melton  
Staff Liaison

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