

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
May 15, 2013 – 7:00 PM
VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101**

PRESENT: Commissioners Brad Foreman, Pat Michalski, Frank Vozak, Tom Zapler, Yvonne Benson, Tremaine Williams, Swati Saxena

ABSENT: Serena Brewer

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04PM

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Resident Diane Rasche appeared before the group to give a brief overview of the Progressive Dinner project she has been heading up for a number of years. She discussed the origin of the project and explained how residents in their neighborhood register and participate in the project. She offered to assist in getting the word out for volunteers for the parade by sharing her contact link with Commissioner Foreman. After her presentation, new commissioners Tom Zapler and Tremaine Williams introduced themselves and talked about their reasons for joining. Also in attendance was Mr. Jameel Rafia, whose term is currently being approved by the Village Board. His effective date of service is expected to begin in June.

Dinners Project Update: Commissioner Benson, who will serve as facilitator for the dinner on May 22nd gave an update on the dinner progress. Attendees are being finalized and the host is very excited about the upcoming event. Commissioner Zapler and Intern Hussein ----- will also attend as observers.

Discussion was held around the notion of refocusing the theme and scope of the dinner project. Commissioner Benson suggested a dinner be held at a local restaurant to ease concerns of some who may feel slightly uncomfortable going to someone's home. Several ideas were discussed. It was suggested that Mr. Melton consider the undertaking of this particular dinner. He will and report back on possible next steps at our June meeting.

Chair Zapler assigned a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Benson, Saxena and Williams to move forward on working to refocus, improve, and establish format for the dinners going forward.

Fact Finding Forum: At the invitation of Commissioner Michalski, Milla Tellez of the 19th Century Charitable Association appeared before the group and explained the various programs and services offered through the organization. Mrs. Tellez also extended an invitation to the CRC to consider utilizing the location as a site for future diversity dinners.

Parade Update: Brad Foreman discussed his work to date on the event and discussed the continued need for volunteers. Outreach is continuously being conducted for volunteers. Mr. Melton discussed website registration and marketing done from the Village as well as securing the Freedom Marching Band to perform again this year. Poster design and quantity were also discussed. Yvonne Benson has secured three bids on the poster redesign. The posters should be ready for the commission to distribute the week of June 10th.

Day in Our Village: Discussion was held regarding CRC participation in the festival. A sheet was passed around with time commitments listed for commissioners to man the volunteer table. Commissioner Vozak will provide a tent and table for the group. Commissioners are responsible for bringing their own chairs.

Adjourn: Commissioner Vozak moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 PM with Commissioner Foreman providing a second. All were in favor.

Cedric Melton
Staff Liaison

