

Community Relations Commission

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Joyce – motion; Alexis – second

Attendance: All present except Sabryna, who was present for the last 15 minutes of the meeting

Agenda Items:

A. Fair Housing Authority Forum Report:

- a. Cheree and Alexis reported that the group discussion was largely about how the CRC used to operate in the past; the CRC was advisory to the Board of Trustees and the Board would listen
- b. Audience called for much more action from the CRC
- c. General feeling in room was that Oak Park is resting on its laurels and coasting on wins and gains from 30 – 50 years ago.
- d. Those historically different times allowed for bold leadership; we are in another historic moment that demands bold leadership to address racism and other systems of oppression
- e. Tom announced he will resign from the CRC in August. Joyce announced she will resign from the CRC this summer. Sabryna will be asked to resign due to scheduling conflicts.

B. Discussion of the mission of the CRC

- a. Members of the CRC agreed that we want the CRC to rise in relevance and to be a body that is seen as leading the conversation on equity at the Village level.
- b. The CRC would like to re-define our relationship with the Board and to become an advisory body once again.
- c. The CRC will be present for issues that affect equity – The recent board debate about parking in OP, for example: The biggest impact of overnight parking restrictions in OP is on renters. In OP, renters tend to have lower incomes than owners; a higher percentage of renters are people of color. Therefore, the parking issue is having a greater impact on lower income people and people of color. Parking is an equity issue. This is a perfect example of how the CRC's recommendations of governing for racial equity matter. If the Board were using decision-making tools that take racial equity into account, how might the discussion and decision be different?
- d. After much discussion, the members of the CRC agreed that the mission, as stated, will stand. We will re-commit to our work plan for 2018, and will spend time this summer preparing the 2019 work plan.
- e. We will send one CRC member to Board meetings once per month to read a statement at the public comments as a reminder to integrate considerations of racial equity in all board discussions and deliberations. We will also give relevant updates on CRC work. Kelly will draft the statement and be at the board meeting on Monday, June 4th. We will create a calendar for the remainder of 2018 at the June CRC meeting.
- f. The CRC agreed that part of our role is to listen to the community and help be a voice. We would like to spread the word about our meetings and invite people to attend.
- g. Three vacancies are opening on the CRC. We discussed being actively involved in recruiting members. Kelly will communicate with Clerk Scamen to inform her that we will be recruiting people to apply to the CRC. Kelly will draft a recruitment blurb that we can all send out to our networks.

- h. 2 Event ideas were discussed as part of the community events section of our workplan:
 - i. Trustees Year in Review event @ L!VE Café, co-sponsored with SUA. Cheree and Annemarie will take the lead on this event.
 - ii. Crime/Safety & Check Your Bias event. Fishbowl discussion with 3 beat officers, Alexis, and Terry Keleher (pending availability)
 - 1. Karin checking library availability
 - 2. Kelly will connect Alexis and Terry
 - i. Cheree announced there is an ABC Toon Town anniversary celebration on July 7th from 10:00 – 3:00. Owned by a woman of color, important to support.
- C. GARE Update:
- a. OP will join GARE
 - b. We would like more information and a timeline from the Village
 - c. Kelly will draft a letter asking for an update, plan, and timeline for implementation of the recommendations. Kelly will work to coordinate a meeting with Cara to get more information.
- D. Day in Our Village
- a. Tom coordinating the tabling times. Email him with availability.
- E. July 4th Parade
- a. Tom announced there are some new acts that will be in the parade.
- F. 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Ordinance
- a. A film is being made as a commemoration.
- G. Dinner & Dialogue
- a. These are getting increasingly challenging to organize
 - b. The May Dinner will be postponed.
- H. Neighbors Knowing Neighbors
- a. There will be programming happening this summer. Karin and Cheree are the liaisons with Linda Francis, the lead organizer of this initiative.
 - b. The CRC will be asked to help with some of the events.

Motion to adjourn: Cheree
Second: Annemarie