

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
October 20th, 2021 – 7:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Commissioners Brewer, Flowers, Hughes, Quinn, Sakiyama, Rodriguez, Puentes, Bencola, Terretta

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Cedric Melton

CALL TO ORDER: 7:32PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Commissioner Bencola motioned for agenda approval with Commissioner Hughes providing a second. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: a. REVIEW OF VOP BOARD GOALS

Chair Brewer opened discussion on board goals for 2022 and highlighted the strong equity focus in the board goals. Discussion took place regarding the board goals and CRC involvement with activities outlined in the goal document. Commissioner Sakiyama inquired about the Village's ongoing membership in GARE. A request was made by the group that HR Director Chang be invited to a meeting to present information regarding GARE and the Village's equity status going forward. Chair Brewer agreed to invite Director Chang to an upcoming meeting for an equity presentation.

b. DISCUSSION ON CRC WORKPLAN

A group discussion took place around the 2022 work plan. Commissioner Bencola asked if the due date for the plan could be extended to allow time for the group to concentrate on activities for the CRC. Discussion also took place regarding increasing the budget for CRC activities. The group talked about various collaborations and partnerships that should be explored as it relates to the workplan. A suggestion that cross-commission

activities should be explored to enhance community engagement and collaboration throughout the community around community safety and partnering with different cultures throughout the Village of Oak Park. There was a discussion on lack of community engagement that should be addressed through developing strategies for promoting more active community/citizen engagement in the face of COVID restrictions. The group agreed that pulling people out into the public for engagement activities will pose a challenge as many are still afraid and cautious regarding safety.

ADJOURN: Motioned by Commissioner Sakiyama, second by Puentes at 8:45pm.

.

