

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 18, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Comms. Puentes, Rodriguez, Quinn, Sakiyama, Terreta

ABSENT: Comms. Bencola

STAFF: Cassandra Adediran, Dr. Danielle Walker

CALL TO ORDER: 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Comm. Sakiyama motioned for agenda approval Comm. Puentes provided a second. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairwoman Rodriguez opened the meeting with discussion on the Community Relations Commissions 2023 Work Plan. Comm. The focus involved each commissioner suggesting three or four priorities and the commission then having a discussion to build the work plan on the language. Comm. Rodriguez asked each member to provide ideals of what the work plan looks like.

Comm. Rodriguez:

- (1) Institutional Change - emphasizing policy work and racial equity toolkit) and
- (2) Community Outreach/Education – holding an event and creating an outside entity to speak to the village about equity.

The overall gist is to make recommendations to the [Village] board, do an annual event for connecting the community, complete a yearly report and share resources.

Comm. Puentes:

- (1) Quarterly calendar to stay focused/ make tangible impact,
- (2) Institutional Change and being able to make recommendations to the Board,
- (3) Grant programs, and
- (4) Finding time, whether quarterly or semi-annually, to have a form of training for commissioners.

Comm. Quinn:

- (1) Partnerships – as an umbrella for community engagement to make connections,
- (2) Grant program under Community Engagement, and
- (3) Institutional Change and making recommendations to the Board.

Comm. Sakiyama:

- (1) Institutional Change – making recommendations to the Board,
- (2) Events/celebrations,
- (3) Framework for difficult conversations, and
- (4) Yearly report (more information is needed).

Comm. Terretta:

- (1) Partnership with Dr. Walker and pinpoint upcoming decisions/inventory of policy areas that staff need support in. This includes assessment/observation/recommendations to inform board decisions just as other commissions are able to do,
- (2) Grants program – not meddle where CRC the support is not needed but if a grantee needs expand their [program], not monetarily, CRC can support and lend partnerships, and
- (3) Not sure about events; but if events be clear on the purpose and getting the word out.

Chairwoman Rodriguez summarized that the Commission appears to agree to:

- (1) Making recommendations to the Board,
- (2) Gran programs, and
- (3) Community Engagement through events, within grants, etc.

Comm. Sakiyama expressed concerns about the grants explaining that there has been some discussion at the Board level about changing the process and about the Board approving the CRC's [grantee] recommendations. He related that there were also emails which stemmed from one of the current grantees' previous behavior, the facts of which are not established. Also, Comm. Sakiyama expressed concern on the issue of grant administration in terms of who is responsible for it, explaining that it may not be the best use of the Commissions time especially if the CRC is only making recommendations.

Further discussion on the grant program was had with the commission members agreeing that the grant program is viable and the grantees are valuable. Also, CRC will come up with a process for accountability to the Board. Overall the Commission will continue to improve the structure of the grant program.

Dr. Walker introduced the idea of a theme for the CRC grant as they prepare to present the 2023 Work Plan to the Board. The Commission instead decided to

- (1) keep the grant program as it is and perhaps ask for more funding,
- (2) make recommendations for civic infrastructure to expand base of engagement to advance equity, and
- (3) provide governance and delivery of services in a racially equitable manner.

Comm. Terretta volunteered to reach out to the Village Board Liaison Trustee Enyia to ascertain the format in which the CRC must present their work plan in order for it to be received.

CRC Chairperson Rodriguez asked that the commission members come to the next meeting ready to finalize and vote on the work plan as well as start working on the calendar activities/events. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2/15/2023.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Quinn. Meeting adjourned at 9:02p.m.