

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Village Hall Rm 101 @ 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order 7:00 p.m. Meeting was held in room 101 as scheduled. Staff present: Cassandra Adediran, Dr. Danielle Walker.

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Comms. Rodriguez, Puentes, Sakiyama, Bencola, Peart, Griffin

ABSENT: Comms. Coats, Quinn-Pasin, Terretta (at the time of roll call)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Comm Sakiyama and seconded by Comm Bencola.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes from August 16 meeting was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Sakiyama.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss the grant program was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Bencola.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and discussion of 2023 Mini-grant applications

Chairperson Rodriguez related that it is better if all commissioners are present to discuss the grant program in length as Comms. Quinn-Pasin and Coats were not present. Also, it was acknowledged that another meeting for Housing was simultaneously in progress in the Council Chambers which was of equal importance for some Commissioners to attend, thus causing a shift in the quorum. The Commissioners agreed to table the review and discussion of the grant program until the next meeting. A roll call vote was taken:

Rodriguez= Yes

Puentes=Yes

Sakiyama=Yes

Griffin=Yes

Bencola=Yes

Peart=Yes

In between meetings, Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to the current grant applicants to garner clarity on certain answers on their applications before the reviewing and scoring process. Each Commissioner will be assigned one or more applicants to reach out to.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hispanic Heritage Month

The following dates for the upcoming events were presented to the commission members:

9/24 – Keynote Speaker at the OPPL on Scoville
9/28 – Latinx Roundtable Talk at the OPPL on Scoville
10/4 – Language Access Listening Session at TBD
10/7 – VIVA Oak Park Festival – Village Hall, South Lawn
10/13-Movie Night, Village Hall, South Lawn

Commissioners were encouraged to attend and/or volunteers as needed for the VIVA Oak Park festival as well as the Movie Night activity.

2. Office of DEI Updates from Dr. Walker on the Racial Equity Assessment

Dr. Walker mentioned that the CRC's work plan is coming due.

As for the racial equity assessment, there is a worksheet that everyone fills out and everyone will be interviewed individually by UIC's team. Staff is not involved. Comm. Rodriguez related that she has a list of people who should be included in the UIC assessment. Per Dr. Walker, the assessment and interviews with UIC will take place in the next two weeks.

There will be an all-commission roundtable discussion in the month of October.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Terretta. Meeting adjourned at 7:49p.m.