

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Village Hall Rm 201 @ 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order 7:21 p.m. Meeting was held in room 201
Staff present: Cassandra Adediran, Shalonda Lane.

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Comms. Rodriguez, Sakiyama, Quinn-Pasin, Terretta, Puentes

ABSENT: Comms. Bencola, Coats, Griffin (absent during roll call; late arrival)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to table the minutes from the 12/6/2023 CRC Special Meeting was made by Comm. Quinn-Pasin and seconded by Comm. Sakiyama, pending request for clarification by Comm. Sakiyama on a section of the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Vote on 2024 CRC Mini-Grant Awardees

Members of the Commission discussed the situations surrounding the grantees who were and/or were not selected to receive grants. Members vocalized their disappointment in having the grant recipients presented to them by staff without explanation and thus they were voting on something that someone had put together. Members continued to express their disappointment about how the recipients for the mini-grant program had been selected, their inability to have said something about it, the exclusion of some other grant applicants, the influence of staff on the process, and their individual feelings. Chair Rodriguez suggested that the members review the list provided by staff and proceed to award dollar amounts to the grants. Members thanked Chair Rodriguez for her hard work and agreed to move forward.

Motion to vote only on the seven recommended applicants who were listed as possible recipients of funding was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Sakiyama. Roll call vote was taken:

Quinn-Pasin – Yes

Griffin - Yes

Rodriguez – Yes

Sakiyama - Yes

Terretta – Yes, with disagreement on the eligibility rationale

Puentes – Yes, with disagreement on the eligibility rationale

Discussion centered around each eligible grant applicant and whether to fund fully or partially, if at all. Question arose about applicants receiving less than what they applied for. Commissioners were reminded that if the [applicant's] program changes significantly against what they submitted, then they should refer to the project guidelines. Motion was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Quinn-Pasin to vote on the allocations for each eligible applicant.

- TUTORASTIC - \$1900
- RACE CONSCIOUS DIALOGUES - \$1500
- KINFOLK COLLAB - \$2000
- OPRF PARENT DISABILITY – \$1300
- LGBTQ+ - SPACES - \$2000
- THE CRONES PROJECT - \$0
- ONE EARTH COLLECTIVE - \$1300

Roll call vote was made:

Quinn-Pasin – Yes
Griffin - Yes
Rodriguez – Yes
Sakiyama - Yes
Terretta – Yes
Puentes – Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review of 2023 Work Plan

Chair Rodriguez would like to keep the quarterly plans like 2023. The CRC members went through the work plan to review what happened and what did not happen.

b. 2024 work plan updating and planning discussion

Chair Rodriguez requested that members have notes on the 2023 workplan for the end of year report and in order to move to 2024.

Comm Sakiyama expressed that after two years of being on the CRC, he feels that the only thing of substance was the grant program. Comm. Sakiyama recalled the visit by Pres. Scaman after the incident with Dr. Chapple as well as the incident with the CRC reading the equity statement when not involved with it. Comm Sakiyama also expressed his concern that no one has asked for CRC's input or how the CRC can help on issues such as with Asylum Seekers, the Village wanting to give the Park District money after the Transatlantic Menu issue; none of the things that he believed that the CRC could have helped with, but the CRC was asked to help with July 4th and other celebrations. Maybe take a look back in the two years of things that have happened in the village and how the village responded and how the CRC could have aided in their mission; with the Village's involvement, how the celebration with Juneteenth going; here is what we have been told; here is what we have missed; here is how we may have been able to help; here is how

the village is doing. Talk a specific topic and let the community know that the CRC is talking about the issues.

Comm. Griffin related that this is her first time on the Commission and she does not know the objective of the group. She joined because she wanted to be involved with Juneteenth which she thought went horribly. She thought the CRC group is more involved with the community and that the title of the group is skewed. Chair Rodriguez said that she has spoken with VM Jackson and Pres. Scaman about changing the name of the CRC. JR does not feel that they can make it back to the human element that they want inserted in the grant program.

Comm Puentes expressed that the CRC has put a lot of time and effort in what they consider to be the legacy project. Having been on the Commission for about five years, she still has questions about how having meetings work and she would like to see some broad education about the role of the Commission, and where with giving time and energy, what does that allow, what changes are being made when it feels like a snail's pace and the finish line keeps being moved so there is a need for an education piece as things change all the time.

Chair Rodriguez related that she spoke with Clerk Waters. There has been uncertainty on how things go. Everyone needs some direction so Clerk Waters is working on it.

Chair Rodriguez will chat with everyone one-on-one about the 2024 Work Plan.

Cassandra mentioned that the deadline for the 2024 Work Plan to be voted on is the end of January. A special meeting may be considered. Chair Rodriguez acknowledged that the Commission spent quite a bit of time on the workplan so there should not be whole lot of changes. Members briefly discussed the possibility of a special meeting and being able to accomplish the work plan by the due date.

Motion to table agenda item c, New Business-Updates on Racial Equity Assessment, was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Terretta.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Terretta. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.