



**MEETING MINUTES  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023, 7:00 P.M.  
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 201**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Commissioners Jill Eid, Ron Elling, Annemarie Kill, Curtis Lott (late), Drew Miller, Carollina Song, Sheila Wesonga and Chair Greg Kolar

**Absent:** Commissioner Ron Roman

**Also present:** Village Clerk Christina Waters

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Song seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

Commissioner Elling moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting as presented; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. Commissioner Eid abstained. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VI. New Business**

A) A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be Considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:

- a. Karen Schneller – Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee
- b. Macaire Ament – Farmers’ Market Commission
- c. Amy Peterson – Historic Preservation Commission
- d. Mark Weiner – Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Miller seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

***Karen Schneller – Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee***

Recently moved to Oak Park. Retired nurse. Her desire to be involved comes from when she lived in Decatur previously and served on boards and committees which enriched her experience with the community and gave her the opportunity to engage with people she would not know otherwise. She has

watched a meeting and read minutes and talked to Chair Celis and Clerk Waters. She worked in the 501(c)(3) foundation for the hospital she worked in so she is familiar with grants and grant writing. She sees one of her challenges will be to get to know the nonprofit organizations in the community. She doesn't see any issues with the unusual meeting schedule.

***Macaire Ament – Farmers' Market Commission***

Moved to Oak Park in May 2022. Business analyst and system administrator who is passionate about food and food systems and loves to cook. The Farmers' Market was the first place she visited in Oak Park. Looking for an opportunity to put the things she enjoys studying to use. Spent years in marketing and events and is interested in the events and sustainability committees. Stressed the importance of food access and providing the LINK and SNAP double coupons at the Market. Also important to bring in new perspectives and collaborate and be invested in the community. She's excited to pick up shifts at the Market. Also interested in the Community Development Commission as a second choice.

***Amy Peterson – Historic Preservation Commission***

Moved to Oak Park in October 2022. Lifelong history lover who majored in history and has a masters in public history. Other area of expertise is in education. Used to work for the Chicago History Museum and worked with Cuneo Mansion in Vernon Hills to develop a National Historic Register application. Excited to live in a village with three historic districts and preserve and educate its history. Spoke to Chair Garapolo about the work plan and watched a meeting. Impressed by the problem solving of the commission for preserving historical character while helping homeowners come up with viable solutions for living in these homes today. Opportunities for shaping longer-term guidelines. Ensuring new structures are enduring pieces of architecture.

***Mark Weiner – Historic Preservation Commission***

History of living in Oak Park and served one term as an alderman in Berwyn and was a member of the Berwyn Historic Society. Helped pass an ordinance to require a setback for additions on bungalows and create a historic bungalow area in Berwyn. Lives in a landmarked house in the Frank Lloyd Wright historic district and has come before the HPC previously to update their garage. Helps people that are injured. Believes in keeping the old nice and preserved to the best of our ability. Served on the Citizen Involvement Commission from 1996-2000. Has spoken to Chair Garapolo. The biggest issue facing Oak Park now is homeowners wanting home offices above their garages.

B) Review of Vacancy Report

Commissioner Elling inquired about commissioners whose terms expired months ago. Clerk Waters responded that some commissioners are still working on special projects and the commissions do not want to make a change until the projects are finished, including the expired chair of the Environment & Energy Commission and a commission on the Housing Programs Commission.

Commissioner Song asked if there will be more applicants coming up or should the CIC be beating the drum. Clerk Waters responded that CIC should beat the drum, like for the Plan Commission which has some vacancies.

Commissioner Lott asked why more people do not want to get involved in the commissions with a lot of vacancies, like the Community Design Commission and the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee. Clerk Waters responded that there has been a wave of resignations with the return to in-person meetings. CDCAC is considering decreasing its commissioners from 11 to 9. Commissioner Kill added that CDC requires six commissioners to be trained as design professionals with at least two trained in urban forestry or horticulture. Chair Kolar noted that most of that's commission's work is on signage. Commissioner Lott asked if CIC can do anything to help CDC recruit members. Clerk Waters suggested talking to their chair about their needs and talking to your networks.

Commissioner Kill asked how our 32 current vacancies compares over the past 12 months. Clerk Waters responded that it fluctuates but stays in the 30s and we are trying to keep up with the changing times. Commissioner Kill said she is interested in knowing more about commissioners resigning due to the return of in-person meetings. Clerk Waters confirmed that is what she is hearing. Commissioner Elling said a quorum has to be in person but if the Village had hybrid capability, the whole public could attend without affecting the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Eid asked if a column can be added next to the vacancies about who is in the pipeline. Commissioner Waters said she can pull that data manually and it is included in her quarterly email to the chairs.

- C) Review of Advisory Board, Commission and Committee Appointments Report from the February 21, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting.

No appointments were made at the February 6, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Clerk Waters added that tonight's applicants will be added to the March 20 Board of Trustees meeting.

## **VII. Advisory Committees, Commissions, and Boards CIC Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Wesonga inquired about the process for submitting these reports. Chair Kolar responded that one can be filled out after attending a meeting and send it to Chair Kolar and Clerk Waters.

Commissioner Elling attended meetings of the Civic Information Systems Commission and Building Codes Advisory Commission. CISC has one vacancy and is interested in recruiting females and minorities. He is impressed by how much research they carry out with so few members. He noted that CISC is not included in their enabling language and recommended correcting it and increasing the membership from 7 to 9. Clerk Waters clarified that Article 26 in the Village Code recognizes CISC as a commission.

Commissioner Elling reported that BCAC has two vacancies. Electrical, plumbing, and HVAC are not represented and their only architect's term expires in September. Chair Kelly is interested in advertising in the *Wednesday Journal*, which Commissioner Elling thinks should be done for all commissions.

Commissioner Lott attended the Citizen Police Oversight Committee meeting. One complaint was reviewed about two grade school boys who were supposedly checking door handles on cars. Five officers showed up and an older lady came out and got involved. One officer was very agitated. CPOC made recommendations to the Deputy Chief that perception and approach is very important and it could have escalated. They also discussed the work plan. Commissioner Lott said he will follow up with a written report. Commissioner Song thanked Commissioner Lott for attending what sounds like a difficult meeting.

Commissioner Song said she is waiting for an introduction to her commission chairs and waiting on language from legal staff. Clerk Waters said she can send her a liaison introductory email for Board of Health and Zoning Board of Appeals and she will follow up with the Law Department.

Commissioners Eid and Song requested that the CIC liaison list be a permanent part of the meeting materials. Clerk Waters confirmed she will keep it in there.

Commissioner Kill reported that the Historic Preservation Commission is looking for an architect, preferably a female and/or person of color. She gave a plug for the CISC as camera issues and right to privacy are big issues right now.

#### **VIII. Executive Session**

- D) 5 ILCS 120/(c)(1) – Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the appointment recommendations of volunteers to the Village of Oak Park's advisory commissions, committees and boards.  
Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

#### **IX. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

#### **X. New Business Continued**

- E) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Karen Schneller to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee.  
Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

- F) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Macaire

Ament to the Farmers' Market Commission

Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

G) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Amy Peterson to the Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Wesonga moved; Commissioner Miller seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

H) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Mark Weiner to the Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Miller seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

I) Discussion of Agenda Items to be Added to Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meetings

For April 5 meeting:

- Discussion of the protocol for interviewing recently appointed commissioners. Commissioners should send their notes in advance to Clerk Waters.
- Creation of work groups around the approved 2023 work plans

## **XI. Adjourn**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to adjourn; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Hansen, Deputy Village Clerk