



**MEETING MINUTES  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023  
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Commissioners Jill Eid, Ron Elling, Annemarie Kill, Curtis Lott, Ron Roman, Carollina Song, Sheila Wesonga and Chair Greg Kolar

**Absent:** Commissioner Drew Miller

**Also present:** Deputy Village Clerk Cindy Hansen

**III. Agenda Approval**

Chair Kolar requested to move the approval of the December 7 meeting minutes to the February 1 meeting. Commissioner Lott moved to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Lott, Wesonga, Eid, Kill, Elling, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Miller

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. New Business**

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

a. Dave Bates – Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Roman moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Roman, Wesonga, Eid, Elling, Lott, Kill, Song and Chair Kolar

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Miller

***Dave Bates – Historic Preservation Commission***

Dave is a history professor at Concordia University. He is from a historic town in New Jersey and has lived in Oak Park for two years. He submitted his 1921 home for historic status. His expertise is late 19th and early 20th century U.S. history so Oak park architecture is in his wheelhouse. He thinks a challenge is trying to balance the need for Oak Park to be a place that is unique versus the needs of a living

community. An opportunity is that Oak Park takes its historic identity very seriously. Making the determination of what is historic is the difficult but rewarding work of the Commission.

**VI. Executive Session**

- B) 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 Song moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Song, Lott, Eid, Elling, Kill, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Miller

*The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.*

**VII. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

*The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:22 p.m.*

- C) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Dave Bates to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Eid moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Eid, Wesonga, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Miller

**VIII. New Business (Continued)**

- D) Discussion of Agenda Items to be Added to Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meetings.

Chair Kolar said the February meeting will review the CDCAC which has four vacancies. Commissioner Kill suggested reviewing the May onboarding memo and finalizing the liaison assignments.

Commissioner Roman suggested adding the discussion of onboarding, work plan, and recruitment strategies as a permanent agenda item under old business. Chair Kolar will follow up with President Scaman regarding chair vacancies. Commissioner Song requested a regular report on whether the recommended candidates get appointed. Chair Kolar said he will follow up with Clerk Waters.

Chair Elling volunteered to draft a resolution to the Board of Trustees stating that all public meetings should be hybrid with an option to participate remotely. Commissioner Wesonga agreed. Chair Kolar said he will invite President Scaman to join the February meeting for that discussion. Commissioner Song recommended knowing the state laws prior to the discussion.

## IX. Old Business

### E) Update Regarding On-Boarding Discussions for Advisory Board, Commission and Committee Members

Commissioner Roman said this commission cannot discuss its internal process of onboarding outside of a public meeting. Commissioner Elling felt that doing housekeeping is not public business. Chair Kolar clarified that two commissioners may have discussions outside of a public meeting. The next chair commission meeting is January 30.

Commissioner Roman recommended the CIC liaisons take the lead with communicating and following up with the candidates and that each commission be assigned a CIC liaison. Commissioner Elling had requested that Clerk Waters introduce him to the Building Codes Commission chair. Deputy Clerk Hansen said she will follow up with Clerk Waters.

Chair Kolar said commission agendas are posted on the Village website. Commissioner Kill said she prefers to receive them by email. Commissioner Eid said the CIC created a process for connecting with your chair so she will share that again with commissioners.

Updated committee liaison assignments:

Eid: Community Design, Farmers' Market

Elling: Building Codes, Civic Information Systems

Kill: Community Development, Historic Preservation

Kolar: Citizen Involvement, Plan

Lott: Citizens Police Oversight, Community Relations

Miller: Transportation, Housing Programs

Roman: Disability Access, Liquor Control Review

Song: Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals

Wesonga: Aging in Place, Fire & Police, Environment & Energy

Commissioner Roman said the CIC liaison would first introduce themselves to the chair and then do a survey or call to ask recent commissioners about their experience and onboarding. Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Kill had previously discussed that same process. Commissioner Elling recommended a structured format with the same questions. Chair Kolar said the Village Board should approve the work plan in January and then projects can be delegated.

Commissioner Elling raised the issue of commissioners having freedom of expression to speak to the press as private citizens, not as commissioners. He suggested this be included in the orientation. Chair Kolar added that commissioners can draft an opinion piece in an open meeting and then publish it. Commissioner Song suggested writing a letter encouraging participation in commissions. Commissioner

Elling said the work plan includes money for advertising. Commissioner Roman said the *Wednesday Journal* may also include new appointment announcements.

**X. Adjourn**

Commissioner Elling moved to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Wesonga. A roll call was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Elling, Wesonga, Eid, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Miller

*The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Hansen, Deputy Village Clerk