



**MEETING MINUTES
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

A. Call to Order

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:19 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

Also present: Clerk Waters

C. Agenda Approval

Chair Kolar noted the updated Agenda with the removal of Jill Baker for the Board of Health and Vic Guarino for Plan Commission who were not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Song seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended.

D. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting; Commissioner Lott seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

E. Public Comment

Commissioner Wesonga said Harriet Robinet was a wonderful author of children's books and a visionary here in Oak Park. Her services will be at her home church St. Edmunds this Saturday at 10:00 A.M.

Clerk Waters said the Juneteenth Luncheon is June 9th where the oratory winners will give their speeches. The flag-raising will be June 12th at Village Hall. The community cookout will be June 15th at Village Hall.

F. 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:

- i. Rachel Gresk – Community Relations Commission (CRC)
- ii. Cheryl Wisniewski – Community Relations Commission (CRC)
- iii. Aaron Vanderbilt – Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC)
- iv. Amanda Massie – Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

Commissioner Wesonga moved; Commissioner Eid seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Rachel Gresk works in higher education and has lived overseas and moved to Oak Park in 2020. She has lived in a lot of different communities. She feels like her background and education and expertise can contribute in this area and she is excited to get involved and serve her community. She is open to other commissions.

Cheryl Wisniewski has lived in Oak Park for a total of 20 years. She has worked for nonprofits her entire career, mostly focusing on the southwest and south side of Chicago. She serves on the Community Foundation in Oak Park and was in Leadership Lab. She also considered running for office but she thinks this is her road of being involved in this way in shared governance. She is passionate about making Oak Park the best it can be for everybody.

Aaron Vanderbilt has been a resident of Oak Park for four years and is a former longtime Austin resident. He is in real estate sales and development throughout Chicago. He has three businesses and is a general contractor in Oak Park. He wants to bring more building opportunities to the Village and a different perspective to the commission as a younger man of color.

Amanda Massie owns a historic home in Oak Park and underwent a long restoration process. She said they went to the HPC a number of times and had some run-ins with the architect and the commission. She learned a lot and has a lot more ideas of what things cost and take to restore a home. She wants to be a voice that's not an architect but a homeowner who has gone through it.

B. Review of Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report - June 4, 2024

Commissioner Song said she attended a recent Board of Health (BOH) meeting and the commissioners were unclear about their renewals. Clerk Waters said she spoke about it to BOH Chair Welter and Dr. Chapple. She announced Jonathan Burch was recently appointed to Assistant Village Manager/Neighborhood Services Director, which creates a vacancy on the Housing Programs Advisory Committee (HPAC). Commissioner Wesonga noted that she cannot be the liaison for Aging in Communities anymore due to a scheduling conflict. Clerk Waters said recruitment is paused for the Community Design Commission (CDC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to determine the future of those two commissions.

C. Review of Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee Appointments at Regular Board of Trustees Meeting(s) – None

D. A Motion to the Village Board to Approve the Proposal of Oak Park's Citizen Involvement Commission to Enable Every Volunteer Board, Commission, and Committee to Have the Option to Retain Previous Members as an Emeritus Member | presented by Commissioner Elling
Commissioner Elling was not in attendance so the Item was tabled.

G. CIC Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

H. Staff Liaison Report

Clerk Waters announced the flag raising on June 12 and cookout on June 15 for Juneteenth. There will be a Pride

Party on June 22.

- I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session.** 5 ILCS 120/2(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 motioned; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 8:41 P.M.

- J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:55 P.M.

- K. New Business**

- A. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Rachel Gresk to the Community Relations Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Song seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

- B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Cheryl Wisniewski to the Community Relations Commission

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

Ayes: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

- C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Aaron Vanderbilt to the Building Codes Advisory Commission

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

Ayes: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

- D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Amanda Massie to the Historic Preservation Commission

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

Ayes: Commissioners Eid, Lott, Song, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Miller, Roman

E. Discussion to Coordinate Volunteer Time Slots for Go Green Days (Farmers' Market) and Thursday Night Out.

Chair Kolar said Farmers' Markets are every Saturday through the end of October. Commissioner Wesonga said she attends every Thursday Night Out. Commissioner Eid said she can do July 20 or 27 for the Farmers' Market. Chair Kolar said he will find out what dates are available for Thursday Night Out and the Farmers' Markets and send potential dates next week.

F. Discussion on Agenda Topics for Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meeting(s)

The emeritus discussion will be put on the next agenda. Clerk Waters will follow up with the other commissioners to reschedule the July 4 meeting for Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 P.M.

L. Old Business

A. Calendarization of Activities we discussed at our working meeting

There was no discussion.

M. Adjourn

Commissioner Wesonga moved to adjourn; Commissioner Eid seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Deputy Clerk Hansen