

Community Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

A meeting of the Community Relations Commission was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Deerfield Village Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present

Gil Antokal
Renee Graxirena, present electronically
Judy Hoffman arrived 6:45 pm
Becky Ramsey
Dave Rauen
Nisa Salins
Drew Spiegel
Brian Verisario
Susie Wexler, Chairperson

Absent

Bill Lundquist

Also Present

David Fitzgerald-Sullivan, Communications Specialist
Jeri Cotton, Secretary

Public Comment

Mr. Antokal reported there will be a blood drive on March 5, 2023 at the Gil Antokal Room at the Jewett Park Center. He noted Mark Woolums has retired from the Park District and Jeff Nehila, Executive Director, has also announced his retirement.

Document Approval

Ms. Graxirena moved to approve the minutes from the CRC meeting. Mr. Antokal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Discussion:

1. Introductions

The commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Salins to the commission.

2. Review of Student Commissioner Applications

Ch. Wexler noted this year, we will be reviewing student commissioner applications for both a sophomore and junior member. There were 18 applicants. Mr. Antokal suggested the commissioners review and score each application and only interview the top candidates for each grade. Mr. Rauen suggested identifying a criterion including volunteer experience. Mr. Spiegel suggested looking at overall engagement in high school and the community. Mr. Rauen would include diversity appreciation and being inclusive as part of the criteria as well. Mr. Antokal believes the applicant should take the written portion of the application seriously. Ch. Wexler wants to ensure the commissioners are looking at the same characteristics. They would like to bring in 3-4 applicants for each position. The commissioners looked at:

- Engagement and commitment to what they do
- Ability to communicate/communication capacity
- Leadership qualities/past leadership experience
- Mindset for enhancing community relations

Mr. Verisario expressed concern about a student being too busy and missing meetings. Mr. Antokal noted there are some “busy” individuals that excelled at their school and outside activities as well as the Commission.

The commissioners reviewed the junior and sophomore applicants and selected the top three in each category to invite to interview. The interviews will be held at 6:30 pm on March 8, 2023 and March 9, 2023 at the Deerfield Public Library meeting room.

The commissioners discussed the questions for the interview. The interviewers will make notes and make a recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting.

3. Update on Heritage Month Subcommittees

Ms. Graxirena provided an update on Women’s History Month. She reached out artist Kimberly Perl, who has 11 paintings on Women Who Lead that will be displayed at Deerfield businesses for people to visit. The kick-off event will be held at the West Deerfield Township offices on March 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm for up to 60 people. They will be seeking appetizer donations from restaurants. Mr. Verisario reached out to a few businesses who will be displaying the paintings. The DBR Chamber of Commerce will be co-sponsoring the event. The commissioners believe this will be a wonderful event.

4. Updates from the Village and Partners

The Fine Arts Commission just approved the Public Art Program.

Adjournment:

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Mr. Antokal moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Verisario seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

The next regular Community Relations Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton
Secretary