

Community Relations Commission

Meeting Notes

August 17, 2021

A meeting of the Community Relations Commission was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Chairperson Susie Wexler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were

Gil Antokal  
Bill Lundquist  
David Rauen  
Susie Wexler, Chairperson

Also Present:

David Fitzgerald-Sullivan, Communications Specialist

Document Approval

Mr. Antokal moved to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2021, Community Relations Commission meeting. Mr. Lundquist seconded the motion, but noted his name was misspelled. The motion passed, as amended, by the following vote:

AYES: Antokal, Lundquist, Rauen, (3)

NAYS: None (0)

Discussion

1. High School Student Member

Mr. Fitzgerald-Sullivan showed the on-line application form for input. Mr. Rauen inquired if the eligibility and duties should be added. It was decided they should be included.

There was discussion on sharing the timeline for selection and deadline for submissions. The deadline is October 10, and a timeline will be provided to applicants.

Mr. Antokal hopes for up to 25 applications. He noted that we can revisit the program and process again next year.

2. Community Kindness Award Program

Mr. Fitzgerald-Sullivan reported that in our area, Glenview, Highland Park, Lake Forest and Arlington Heights all have active recognition programs. Other communities had recognition programs in the past, like Deerfield, but are no longer active.

He noted most of the active programs have multiple categories with criteria for each category, for example, youth, volunteers, best neighbor, etc. Staff recommends

developing four or five award categories and award criteria for each. Awards will be given annually and presented at a Village Board meeting. The goal is to acknowledge community members for their good work and encouraging more people to get involved.

Mr. Antokal noted that past awards used to be announced at the ecumenical Thanksgiving event. But that is now a joint event with Highland Park now, so a new location or event is needed.

Mr. Rauen suggested quarterly kindness awards and to include categories for middle school students, high school, adults and businesses, Ms. Wexler noted that Arlington Heights has too many award categories. She believes elected officials and staff should be excluded. She suggested "Dear in Deerfield" name. The commissioners asked Mr. Fitzgerald-Sullivan to refine the program using their feedback.

Adjournment:

Mr. Antokal moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lundquist seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Antokal, Lundquist, Rauen,

NAYS: None (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The next regular Community Relations Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fitzgerald-Sullivan