

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021

Members Present:

Joe Kuffel – Chair
Carolyn Drblik – Commissioner
Vicky Duka – Commissioner
Jovan Marinac - Commissioner
Katie Schneider – Village of Niles, CRC Secretary
John Jekot – Village Trustees
Joseph Penze – Niles Police Dept, Deputy Chief

Members Absent:

Kathy O’Grady – Niles Family Services, Assist. Director
Matt Abtahi – Commissioner

I. Call to Order:

Joe Kuffel called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

II. Approval of Meeting Summary

Vicky Duka made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting as presented. Carolyn Drblik second the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

III. Reported Citizen Comments/Complaints

a. Police and other Village Departments

There was no update from the Niles Police Department. No representative from the Niles Family Services was present, no update was given.

b. Telephone / Email Hotlines

No complaints or inquiries were submitted or reported.

c. Commissioners

Carolyn Drblik spoke with a resident who lives on Nordica regarding an ongoing parking issue. Joseph Penze replied that the Village is aware of the parking issues and that several departments are working with residents to address these concerns. Community Development has been in contact with this resident and others. The CRC members agreed that there was not a discrimination issue here.

IV. Old Business

a. **Equity and Inclusion Initiatives:** At the last meeting, Commissioner Matt Abtahi volunteered to contact the schools to learn what current DEI programs they have. Matt was not present at the meeting for an update. Carolyn Drblik volunteered to talk to the Niles Library to see what current programs/initiatives they have as well.

b. **Marketing CRC Services:** Katie will make sure that more information is on Village social media. As things open up we can look at printed materials.

V. New Business

Commissioners briefly discussed some of the ethnic organizations that currently are in Niles and some that are looking to move to Niles, including a German Cultural Center and Bosnian group.

These types of organizations would be good relationships for CRC members to build and work with on diversity and inclusivity initiatives. No further action was taken.

VI. Open Discussion and Public Comment

There was no public comment. Commissioner Drblik asked if there were events coming up that CRC members could participate in. Katie Schneider responded that the July 4th parade is moving forward. The Village has not made a decision on allowing block parties.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and will be electronic.

VIII. Adjournment

Jovan Marinac motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Carolyn Drblik second the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by: Katie Schneider, Secretary CRC