



Northbrook Special Needs Inclusion Commission

Meeting Agenda

NORTHBROOK VILLAGE HALL, 1225 CEDAR LANE

Thursday January 5, 2023

6:30 PM

Village Hall, Shermer Study Room

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gillespie called the meeting to order at 6:35PM

Present: Randi Gillespie, Catherine Brandell, Laura Florek, Catherine Caporusso, Susan Mack. Staff Liaison Sam Reiss.

Absent: Barry Craven

Attending Remotely: Catherine Caporusso

Chair Gillespie announced that Commissioner Caporusso requested to attend the meeting remotely in accordance with the Village's remote attendance policy. There were no objections from Commission members or the public.

II. HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners reviewed the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Florek motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Brandell.

Approved unanimously

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Affordable Housing
 - Staff Liaison Reiss addressed the Commission to preface that the Commission does not have a role in the development review process, but if there are opportunities for disability housing in a particular development the commission can promote the availability of expanded housing options for those with disabilities once the development is approved.
 - Commissioners discussed the development at 1657 Shermer and how best to communicate the Commission's support for the development to the Board of Trustees. Commissioners decided that each member will either submit public comment electronically or attend the January 24, 2023 meeting of the Village Board of Trustees meeting detailing why they individually support the development.
 - Commissioner Caporusso introduced to the commission the idea to have a workshop on affordable housing. Commissioners supported the idea and asked that Commissioner Caporusso begin initial planning of the workshop. The Commission intends on conducting the workshop in the summer of 2023.
- Accessibility/Outreach
 - Access to Public Meetings

- Commissioners discussed the issue of access to public meetings. Commissioner Caporusso expressed that meetings of the Village Board, Board Committees, and commissions should be live-streamed to expand access to the public, particularly those with disabilities that may not be able to attend in-person. Staff Liaison Reiss told Commissioners that the Village does not have the staffing or technology equipment to live stream meetings other than meetings of the Board of Trustees and Plan Commission.
- Commissioners asked why only the Village Board meetings, and not the Board committees, are streamed.
- Liaison Reiss stated that the Terrace Room, used by the Board of Trustees for Committee meetings, does not have the equipment necessary to live-stream these meetings and that the Village does not have the staffing to consistently live-stream committee meetings.
- Commissioner Caporusso asked if the Commission could recommend to the Village Board to expand video access to public meetings for Commissions and Board Committee meetings.
- Liaison Reiss stated that he believed that was outside the scope of the Commission.
- Website Content
 - Liaison Reiss and Chair Gillispie discussed special needs content on the Village website. Commissioners can send content to Liaison Reiss for possible inclusion on the website. Reiss will have a draft ready at the next commission meeting.
- TeenConnect
 - Liaison Reiss has reached out to GBN to inquire if the school already has an equivalent program in use.
- Disability Training
 - Liaison Reiss reported that he spoke with the local Chamber of Commerce and that they are interested in partnering with the Commission for a springtime Disability Awareness Training. The Chamber would like for the event to include their members that are in the special needs sector. The Commission agreed with this and will seek to include local special needs organizations where practical.
- Premise Alert Program
 - Liaison Reiss reported to the Commission that he has an internal meeting with Village staff next week to discuss the program.
- Transportation
 - Jim Hickley (Britelift) will call into February meeting.
 - Taxi Program Survey Questions
 - Commissioner Brandell reported that she is continuing research on a volunteer transportation program.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Northbrook Voice DEI article (March/April issue)
 - Liaison Reiss reported that in each issue of the Village's print newsletter that a different topic related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is featured. Since the months of March/April has national recognitions related special needs, the Village is interested in a member of the special needs community write the issue's DEI article.
 - The Commission agreed and assigned Commissioner Florek to write the article.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Thursday February 2, 2023

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gillespie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Seconded by Commissioner Caporusso. Unanimously approved.