

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the  
Community Relations Commission  
Northbrook, IL  
Thursday, January 10, 2019**

Present: Chairman Bruce Doughty, Commissioners Elliot Bruckman, Sarah Kroeschell, Emmeline Hazaray, & Grace Seo.

Absent: Commissioners Christine Beeftink, John Martin, Helena Osorio & Patti Vile.

Representatives: Mary Hansen, Alice Lonoff, Ron Mantegna, Nancy Stoddard, & Marilyn Thompson

Guests: Tracy Gossage – Northbrook Public Library; Joy Stuart – Northbrook Park District

Others: Staff Liaison Erik Jensen

**Welcome**

Chairman Doughty welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Room at Northbrook Public Library.

**Hear from the Audience**

There was no audience.

Commissioner Seo arrived at 7:06 p.m.

**Review & Approval of November 1, 2018 CRC Meeting Minutes**

Revisions were noted as follows:

- Lines 46/53 No possessive apostrophes needed
- Line 74 Change “issued” to “issue”
- Line 76 Change to read “...trick or treating is too long.”
- Line 80 Change “Commissioner” to “Commission”
- Line 94 Insert “by” between “played” and “the”
- Line 118 Change to read “...may issue a survey to attendants in the future”
- Line 145 Change “works” to “work”
- Line 146 Change to clarify Dr. Riggie will remain through the school year end.
- Line 159 Change to “Representative Mantegna wanted it noted that all sectors of our community were deeply affected by the recent synagogue shooting.”
- Line 189 Change January 19 to January 10.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to approve the November 1, 2018 CRC meeting minutes as amended. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Village Update**

Liaison Jensen stated the Village was currently in its budget cycle and the draft budget would be released in February for the Village Board’s consideration.

Liaison Jensen stated the winter had been relatively mild to date and encouraged all to remain aware of the weather and vigilant during winter weather events. He reminded all to be sure to have an emergency kit in his or her vehicle in case they ever became stranded.

Representative Mantegna asked about fees related to the use of Park District facilities.

Liaison Jensen stated Ms. Stuart would be a better person to speak with and that she would be covering the new fitness center in the community presentation.

### **Community Presentation**

Ms. Stuart introduced herself and stated she would be discussing the Northbrook Park District's *New Places to Play* Initiative and plans for the new Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields.

Ms. Stuart briefly overviewed the *New Places to Play* Initiative and stated that it included many components but the largest single item was the construction of the new Activity Center.

Ms. Stuart displayed artist renderings of the new center and discussed the facility's layout and amenities. She explained that the center would be roughly 44,000 square feet in size.

Ms. Stuart stated the project was still in design phase, and that there were many operational questions that would need to be answered later.

Representative Mantegna asked if walking the new track would be free to Northbrook Villagers. Walking is free in Glenview's Park Center to Glenview Villagers. Non-Glenview walkers are charged. Ms. Stuart said fee structure for the new Center is under review.

Chairman Dougherty asked if construction had already been approved.

Ms. Stuart stated that it had been and that the rough construction cost was \$16,000,000.

Ms. Stuart stated that the planned improvements to Sportsman Country Club had been delayed to allow time to consider more options and that the Club would be open for 2019. Finally, she stated the initiative included plans for a universal changing area. Ms. Stuart relayed that more information is available on the Park District's website.

Representative Mantegna asked if there would be a partnership with any bone and joint specialists for the new facility.

Ms. Stuart stated it was being explored.

Chairman Dougherty thanked Ms. Stuart for the presentation.

Ms. Stuart stated that the annual Winter Carnival is also coming up and would be held on Saturday, January 19 at Village Green Park.

### **Update on Activities**

1. Northbrook Cares

Chairman Doughty stated the Subcommittee would reconvene before the spring.

2. Celebration of Cultures

Chairman Doughty noted that neither Subcommittee co-chairs could attend this evening and asked Liaison Jensen for any updates.

Liaison Jensen stated that the co-chairs and he had recently discussed plans, were looking to move the event to the fall and that a Subcommittee meeting would be held in the near future.

3. Welcome to Northbrook/Flamingo Fridays

Commissioner Bruckman reported that the Subcommittee had met prior to Community Relations Commission meeting and stated that the event would be held on Friday, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

Chairman Doughty asked if it would become more a faire.

Commissioner Bruckman stated that there was a desire to grow and offer new agencies. Commissioner Bruckman further explained that the Subcommittee was exploring a service component for the event.

Chairman Doughty stated he supported the idea of a service component.

Commissioner Kroeschell explained that the Subcommittee would likely host a food drive for the Northfield Township Food Pantry at the event.

Representative Lonoff asked if the Houses of Worship would be invited again.

Commissioner Bruckman stated that the possibility could be explored again.

Representative Lonoff asked about involving the Clergy Association.

Representative Hansen stated she would ask the Association about it at the next Clergy Association meeting.

A brief conversation occurred about the potential of broadening the event to invite more current residents as the information provided at the event could be of benefit to both new and current residents.

Chairman Doughty suggested bringing in volunteer and service groups.

Commissioner Bruckman noted that the Subcommittee would be bringing forward a budgetary request at the next regular meeting for approval for the purchase of supplies, including reusable bags to be distributed at the event.

A brief conversation followed on marketing and what to include with the bags.

Representative Lonoff suggested creating a “cheat sheet” of different ways members of the community can volunteer or otherwise get involved.

Representative Hansen stated that would also be useful for participating exhibitors at the event.

Commissioner Bruckman thanked the Commission for the suggestions and noted that the next Subcommittee meeting would be held on Thursday, February 21 if anyone would like to attend. He also asked for any volunteers to staff the Commission’s table at the event.

#### 4. One Community, One Book

Ms. Gossage noted that the Library and its volunteer group were looking to hold the event in July and continued to review books for a final selection.

### **News from Schools**

Commissioner Kroeschell shared information from River Trails District 26 in Mt. Prospect:

- The District will be holding a referendum on building an early learning center as part of the spring elections.

Chairman Doughty shared the following from District 225:

- The District’s superintendent search continues.
- The District is continuing to examine the possibility of switching to a collegiate calendar.

Commissioner Kroeschell stated that Hinsdale’s school district may eliminate some sports and asked if Glenbrook was considering the same.

Chairman Doughty stated that it was not being discussed at this time.

### **News from Northbrook Clergy Association**

Representative Hansen shared the following from the Clergy Association:

- The previously discussed “sermon swaps” will be occurring in February. Representative Hansen stated the following houses of worship would be participating and swapping religious leaders for a service:
  - Gloria Dei and Temple Beth-El
  - Catholic Community of Northbrook and the Islamic Center
  - Northbrook United Methodist and Techny Towers
  - Readers will be welcome to the Baha’i House of Worship
- Rev. Cynthia Hallas would be leaving St. Giles Episcopal Church and be assigned to a new congregation.

Representative Stoddard asked if the sermon swap information would be published.

Representative Hansen stated it would.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business**

Commissioner Hazaray discussed the upcoming Youth Commission three-part series on Teen Wellness and stated the first part of the series would be held on Saturday, February 2.

**Eyes & Ears on the Street**

- Representative Lonoff reminded the Commission of the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service to be held on Monday, January 21.
- Representative Lonoff discussed the upcoming RAIN event where speaker Dilnaz Waraich will reflect on her recent trip to the American South and the significant landmarks in the fight for racial justice. She stated the presentation will be held on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northbrook Public Library.
- Representative Hansen shared information regarding the Baha'i Martin Luther King Jr. speaker series being held January 24 through April 30.
- Representative Thompson shared that Gloria Dei would be hosting a "Global Farm Challenge" simulation on Sunday, February 24 and stated the simulation would allow participants to experience the challenges smallholder farmers face in bring their crops to market.
- Representative Mantegna stated that the Village Presbyterian Church would be holding a "Superbowl of Caring" to collect food for Northfield Township's Food Pantry.

**Next Meeting**

Chairman Doughty announced that the next regular meeting would be held on Thursday, February 7 at Northbrook Village Hall.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kroeschell, seconded by Commissioner Bruckman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jensen  
Staff Liaison