

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Community Relations Commission
Northbrook, IL
Thursday, March 7, 2019**

Present: Chairman Bruce Doughty, Commissioners Christine Beeftink, Elliot Bruckman, Emmeline Hazaray, Sarah Kroeschell, Grace Seo, & Patti Vile

Absent: Commissioners John Martin & Helena Osorio

Representatives: Colette Dim, Mary Hansen, Alice Lonoff, Ron Mantegna, & Marilyn Thompson

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

Others: Staff Liaison Erik Jensen & Recording Secretary Gale Cerabona

Welcome

Chairman Doughty welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at Village Hall.

Chairman Doughty introduced Ms. Colette Dim and stated she would be the new representative from St. Giles as Representative Stoddard would be stepping down.

Representative Dim provided a brief background.

Chairman Doughty asked those present to introduce themselves. Introductions were made.

Ms. Stuart arrived At 7:04 p.m.

Hear from the Audience

There was no audience.

Review & Approval of January 10, 2019, Flamingo Friday Subcommittee Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to approve the January 10, 2019 Flamingo Friday Subcommittee minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Review & Approval of February 26, 2019, Flamingo Friday Subcommittee Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to approve the February 26, 2019 Flamingo Friday Subcommittee minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Review & Approval of January 10, 2019, CRC Meeting Minutes

Revisions were noted as follows:

- Line 69: Revise to read, “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.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to approve the January 10, 2019, CRC meeting minutes as amended. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was noted the next two agenda items would be switched.

Community Presentation

Ms. Gossage from the Northbrook Public Library offered a presentation on *One Community, One Book* initiative.

Ms. Gossage thanked the Commission for initiating this program and stated that these initiatives occur all over the U.S. Ms. Gossage briefly reviewed the types of programs and discussions that are often done as part of these initiatives.

Ms. Gossage stated that the a Committee of members of the Northbrook community had met and discussed over 75 titles as a prospective book and that the Committee had selected Trevor Noah's *Born A Crime* and discussed how the One Community, One Book initiative would be promoted in the community. Ms. Gossage stated there would be 8 to 10 programs including discussions on and off-site and that she hoped the Commission would be able to assist in promoting the event.

Representative Mantegna asked how to obtain/access the book. Ms. Gossage stated that the Library would be purchasing additional copies and that there is a downloadable e-book.

Commissioner Vile asked if schools would be involved. Ms. Gossage advised that Glenbrook North & South would be.

Commissioner Beeftink stated that teens from Niles North read this book and were excited about it.

Chairman Doughty thanked Commissioners Beeftink and Seo and Representative Hansen for their past and current work with this initiative.

Commissioner Beeftink reminded this book is a memoir.

Ms. Gossage departed the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Village Update

Liaison Jensen stated winter may be at an end. He advised there has been 38 inches of snow thus far (along with main breaks, etc.). Commissioner Kroeschell asked how the beet juice worked. Liaison Jensen clarified.

Liaison Jensen shared information on a construction project:

- The Dundee/Lee Culvert Replacement project was still planned to begin this spring. He noted that more information is available on the Village's website at www.northbrook.il.us/dundee.
- The Village has launched an interactive map for the 2019 construction season and that it could be viewed at www.northbrook.il.us/2019construction.

Liaison Jensen noted that the 2018/19 Fiscal Year was coming to an end and that the Commission's budget for the coming year was \$8,000, subject to final Village Board approval.

Liaison Jensen noted that early voting for the spring elections would be held from March 13 through April 1.

Liaison Jensen noted that the Police Department is now holding an on-going event called "Coffee with a Cop" and that the next event would be held on March 21 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Covenant Village.

Liaison Jensen stated that the annual Earth & Arbor Day event would be held on Saturday, April 13. He stated this year would be the 30th anniversary and that, as part of the celebration, the Village would be distributing Scarlet Flame Red Zinnia seeds. He explained that the Scarlet Flame Red Zinnia is Northbrook's official flower. Liaison Jensen further noted that there would be a Speaker's Bureau this year at the event as well.

Commissioner Vile asked what is happening at Northbrook Court. Liaison Jensen stated he would follow-up with more information.

Ms. Stuart shared that the following events were occurring soon at Northbrook Park District:

- Earth Day
- Mother/Daughter Tea
- Fishing Derby
- Summer Camp

She noted a mid-summer groundbreaking would occur for the new Activity Center.

Update on Activities

1. Northbrook Cares

Chairman Doughty stated a meeting will take place on March 14 at 6 p.m.

2. Celebration of Cultures

Commissioner Beeftink stated the Committee met informally. The date for the event is November 2. She advised the next meeting would be on March 14 at 7 p.m.

3. Welcome to Northbrook/Flamingo Fridays

Commissioner Bruckman stated Representatives Hansen and Stoddard had stepped down from the Subcommittee and that he would encourage others to join. He noted that the next meeting would be held on April 4 at 7 p.m.

Commissioner Bruckman noted that there will be a table for the Commission at the event.

Commissioner Kroeschell stated social media would help promote the event.

A brief conversation followed on the possibility of renaming the event in the future as the event is helpful to all residents, not just new ones.

Commissioner Bruckman noted that there was an item on tonight's agenda to appropriate \$1,000 from the current fiscal year's budget for the purchase of supplies for the event. He explained that the funds would be used to purchase flamingoes, reusable bags with a logo for the event, more refreshments and possible giveaways. Commissioner Kroeschell advised an enhanced logo is in the works.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to approve a \$1,000 budget for Welcome to Northbrook/Flamingo Fridays. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hazaray volunteered to be on this committee.

4. One Community, One Book

Chairman Doughty noted that this topic had been covered under Ms. Gossage's presentation.

News from Schools

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

- A referendum question is on the April 2 ballot for facility spending. Commissioner Kroeschell briefly explained the question.

Commissioner Beeftink explained that Niles North is currently building a master schedule.

Chairman Doughty shared the following from District 225:

- The new District 225 Superintendent, Dr. Charles Johns, had been named. Chairman Doughty briefly reviewed the hiring process and Dr. Johns professional history.
- Security changes continue to keep schools safe. There are now fewer open doors. A security guard is in place.
- Beginning next school year, the Glenbrook North start time will be 20 minutes later to allow students to get more sleep.
- Glenbrook North student Ryan Purdy recently won twice at the State Meet.
- The school play is a musical Mamma Mia and will be performed in May.

Ms. Stuart stated the Variety Show was amazing. Commissioner Bruckman echoed that the students have amazing talent. Chairman Doughty thanked Commissioner Bruckman for his singing performance.

News from Northbrook Clergy Association

Representative Hansen advised this group met in February, and that a sermon exchange took place among 9 entities in January and February.

Representative Hansen advised that the Clergy Association was also looking to have a consultant meet with them to discuss how to respond if a major tragedy, such as a mass shooting, occurred in the community.

Representative Dim stated St. Giles is searching for a new Pastor.

Representative Mantegna advised that Ed Burton was recently hired as the new Youth and Family Minister at Village Presbyterian Church.

Old Business

Commissioner Hazaray stated the Youth Commission had a successful Wellness Forum in February and that a second event would be held in April.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Eyes & Ears on the Street

- Representative Mantegna stated Village Presbyterian Church staff wishes to thank the community for the Pancake Breakfast and stated that it was a great event.
- Representative Thompson advised that Hunger-Free Northbrook is providing transportation for seniors to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. She shared that a presentation at Crestwood Place recently occurred. A major initiative is to understand how to assist students who received free lunches during those times when there is no school. A survey will be distributed for eligible families so that needs and gaps may be filled.

Chairman Doughty stated this is important work. Residents are unaware of this need.

Representative Thompson shared that 400 children are affected (for various reasons) and a program should be in place by this summer.

Representative Thompson noted that the initiative would have a live website in April and that it would be appropriate to link it with Northbrook Cares.

- Representative Mantegna shared that there is a big increase of online scams exploiting seniors and explained same. He suggested this topic be addressed in the Village newsletter.
- Representative Hansen stated RAIN is sponsoring an event with Nat Yogachandra on Thursday, April 4 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Library.

Next Meeting

The next CRC meeting is on April 4, 2019.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruckman, seconded by Commissioner Hazaray, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Cerabona
Recording Secretary