Minutes of a Meeting of the
Community Relations Commission
Northbrook, IL
Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Present: Emmeline Hazaray, Ron Mantegna, Patti Vile, Alice Lanoff, Elliot Bruckman, Sarah Kroeschell, Library Liaison Tracy Gossage, John Martin, Christine Beeftink, and Helena Osorio.

Absent: Mary Hanson

Others: Staff Liaisons Cheryl Fayne-dePersio & Erik Jensen

Welcome: Chairman Doughty called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Chairman Doughty welcomed everyone to the special meeting and noted this difficult time during the COVID-19 and this first CRC WebEx meeting. Due to the limited time frame for planning the upcoming event, the focus of the meeting is the Flamingo Friday/Welcome to Northbrook Flamingo Distribution on Friday, June 5.

Hear from the Audience:
Library representative Tracy Gossage explained the Library’s virtual programing, e-resources, and let everyone know they can call Library staff during business hours with questions and to access services such as getting/or renewing a library card.

Event Planning for Flamingo Friday/Welcome to Northbrook:
Commissioner Bruckman thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Commissioners Bruckman and Kroeschell explained to the Commissioners that we are not able to have the traditional event due to COVID-19 concerns and acknowledged the difficult times. They outlined what they have planned for the Friday, June 5 flamingo distribution event for Flamingo Friday/Welcome to Northbrook. They explained the drive through event would be held at the Grainger building on Shermer Road and how it would provide flamingos to use for Flamingo Friday events in the community, as well as a Flamingos on Parade component. This event would bring joy to the community and provide safe guidelines for residents to host neighborhood events. They noted the Arts Commission was a resource, as they funded an additional 150 flamingos for the event, bringing the total to just about 200. It was noted that volunteers are needed to assist with the distribution of Flamingos and fill the tote bags with flyers and information highlighting agencies in the community. Physical distancing will be observed during the drive through event and there will be guidelines for residents on how to hold a safe event.

Commissioner Kroeschell explained this year will be different instead of having a table, organizations may have volunteers sharing handouts in the totes and placing a tot in the back seat with a flamingo!

There will also be information on the Flamingos on Parade event, which involves residents using the flamingos for a display and/or decorating/painting them and submitting the location of the Flamingos on Parade to be included on a map. Residents could then see the fancy flamingos by walking, biking, or driving the route. Member Mantegna mentioned there could be flamingos in the windows similar to the find the bear campaign the library is hosting.

Chairman Doughty talked about the concern to have guidelines included in the packet about the responsible way to have a Flamingo Friday event.
Commissioner Bruckman confirmed there will be additional instructions on the flyers to provide guidance on the safety parameters of the event. Chairman Doughty said the commission should encourage Village departments and agencies to participate. Commissioner Bruckman noted assistance was needed to help with the assembly of the flamingos. Commissioner Martin volunteered to help. There was a discussion about how to pick up the flamingos and how to glue them. It was noted that volunteers at the distribution event should be provided with masks, gloves, and safety vests.

Commissioner Kroeschell would be asking organization to make 200 copies of their flyers to place in the bags. Commissioner Bruckman envisioned a set up similar to the mask set-up with a tent with two lines and cars moving though to keep the flow. Erik Jensen noted we would be using the west parking lot and he would get a map of the west front lot.

The Commission reviewed ways to promote the event with flyers, in the e-newsletter, and on social media.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4 at 7pm. Commissioner Emmeline Hazaray made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Vile. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Submitted by
/s/ Cheryl Fayne-dePersio