



Northbrook Special Needs Inclusion Commission – Special Meeting

**NORTHBROOK VILLAGE HALL
SHERMER STUDY
6:30PM
1225 CEDAR LANE
Thursday, September 21, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randi Gillespie called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

Present: Chair Randi Gillespie, Commissioners Catherine Brandell, Laura Florek, Susan Mack, and Margaret Rohrabaugh

Absent: Commissioners Catherine Caporusso and Barry Craven

II. HEAR FROM AUDIENCE

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Commissioners reviewed the previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Florek motioned to approve as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Brandell. Approved unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESSES

- a. Recommendation to the Village Board – A Recommendation Regarding Virtual Access to Public Meetings of Village Board & Commissions
→ Commissioners discussed the Recommendation to the Village Board to recommend virtual access to public meetings of Village Board & Commissions be established for all Village public bodies. After a brief discussion, Chair Gillespie motioned to vote on the matter. Seconded by commissioner Florek. Commissioners voted unanimously to reject pursuing the recommendation at this time.
- b. Disability Awareness Training
a. Commissioners discussed the recent disability awareness trainings conducted at the Library. While Commissioners noted that the expo area was relatively successful, the low attendance from businesses and employees was disappointing.
- c. Housing Workshops
a. Commissioners discussed their future goals and items that they would like to undertake. Commissioners decided that each commissioner would take on a particular area of either Housing, Information Resources, Transportation. Chair Gillespie and Commissioner Rohrabaugh would focus on Information Resources, Commissioners Mack and Rohrabaugh would focus on Transportation, and Commissioners Brandell and Florek would focus on Housing.

d. Website Content

V. NEW BUSINESSES

a. Commission Name.

- i. Commissioners discussed whether to recommend a modification of the Special Needs Inclusion Commission's name. Chair Gillespie discussed a study from a cognitive research journal that she read after the Disability Awareness Trainings. Chair Gillespie noted that the study found that the term "special needs" had more negative connotations than the term "disability" and that the term "disability" is a broader term that encompasses the Commission's establishing authorization. Commissioner Mack and others agreed with this assessment and asked Liaison Reiss how the commission would go about changing its name. Liaison Reiss said that the Commission could write a recommendation to the Board detailing the reason and justification for the change and that the Board of Trustees would need to agree and approve of the change.
- ii. Commissioners agreed to pursue this recommendation and Chair Gillespie would draft the recommendation and send to Liaison Reiss

b. Attendance.

- i. Commissioners noted the consistent absence of certain members of the Commission and noted that it has been difficult to establish a quorum due to this issue. Commissioners asked if they could also draft a recommendation to remove the member that has consistently not attended meetings. Liaison Reiss said he would look into this but that he believed the commission could also recommend this.

VI. COMMUNITY NEWS

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Commissioners noted that they would not be available during the next regularly scheduled meeting in October. Chair Gillespie motioned to call a special meeting on October 12, 2023 at the same time and location. Commissioners agreed unanimously that October 12, 2023 would be the next meeting of the Commission.
- b. October 12, 2023

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Gillespie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM. Seconded by Commissioner Mack. Approved unanimously.