

Village of Olympia Fields, Illinois  
Community Relations Commission

**Monday, June 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) meeting was called to order via teleconference at 7:21 p.m. by Carl Hill.

\*Carl Hill, Interim Chair in the absence of Andrea Davis

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:**

Carl Hill, Rhonda McNeal, Andrea Townson, Julius Smith and Trustee Sandra Finley

**Members Absent:**

Yuan Liang, Bev Sokol (COVID-19 Leave of Absence), Andrea Davis

After roll call, Carl Hill called for a moment of silence in lieu of George Floyd and peaceful protesters

**Old Business:**

- **COVID-19 Response:**

Call reported on COVID-19 Response. At this time, VOF moved into phase 2 of 5 reopening based on Gov Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan. Carl spoke with government officials in VOF regarding phase 3 opening; the people do not think we need to be as vigilant but he believe we need to be more vigilant. Carl asked the commissions if we had any concerns or input and there were none.

Trustee Finley recommended that CRC send a not to the board and AOH presidents to explain our charge.

- **2020 Census Update**

Rhonda provided update on current response rate for VOF. As of June 1, we have 72.2% self-response. Carl opened the discussion to other options to increase self-response. Andrea T. suggested that at this point it's not necessary to throw more money into the campaign; maybe wait until 30 days out from the deadline. Carl was concerned that some signs may have been removed; it seems he's not seeing them where they were originally placed. Rhonda and Andrea T confirmed that they have seen them when they drive through the community. Julius feels we should decide what we need to do to move forward after the protest quiets down.

Julius reached out to Carolyn Carter-liaison to municipalities but has not gotten a response from the 2 emails that he sent to her.

## **New Business:**

- **Community Engagement**

Trustee Finley gave an update on A5 Marketing Company and their charge to rebrand the VOF. This rebranding includes a Newsletter and the process of getting the writes to Gladys who will send to A5. It is important for CRC make adding content a regular part of what we do because CRC's work is one of the anchors.

Carl mentioned the parade to salute the graduates that was coordinated by Rich Central HS and Trustee Finley gave an update as she participated in the parade and it was a great success.

Trustee Finley discussed the different activities that the different schools have and will do to celebrate graduates

Carl read off the quotes that Andrea D. received for the pole banner signs.

- Carl will follow up to see if public works can install signs. Trustee Finley saw public works is overwhelmed right now and should probably try to handle ourselves.
- Julius had questions regarding per sign cost
  - Suggested a virtual fundraiser to raise funds (sing, play instruments etc.) sponsored by CRC/VOF. Could purchase individual signs
- Trustee Finley spoke on the budget for the signs.
  - She said the funds would come from repurpose breakfast ; education committee may pitch in
- Carl posed the motion to send request to mayor to approve the pole banner sign cost for 31 signs for \$3560 double sided
  - Andrea Townson 2nd
  - Motion passed
  - Trustee Finley will walk it to the mayor for approval. May take an upwards of 2 weeks for order to be filled

- **Housing Assistance**

Andrea T. looked into getting information from SSHC and NHS. She has not received a call back from SSHC. She plan to gather information and present to CRC by next meeting. Rhonda will send Andrea T. some information she received based on a webinar that she attended with SSHC last week.

Carl mentioned we really need to figure out how to get this information to our homeowners. Mentioned an unfortunate situation that he knew of that this information possibly help the homeowners

Julius spoke of false information that circulates and wondered if we could get someone to do seminars.

- **Additional Comments from Commissioners**

Julius suggested looking into what AC Green (The AC Green Show) offers as it relates to saving homes and modifications. He said that it has been a proven good resource of attorneys he work with although it's not free, it's another options.

Carl spoke on his experience with a non-profit that provide this type of assistance. (In response to "AC Green resources") These organizations offer better alternatives to paying a bankruptcy attorney.

Carl called to adjourn the meeting at 8:05