

MEETING MINUTES



Village of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
Minutes from December 2, 2019

Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut
Homewood, IL 60430

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL: Robert Pascarella, Gianni Sansone, Heather O'Malley, Shannon Olison, Nancy Spaniak, Troy O'Quin were present. In attendance from the Village Board, Trustee Lauren Roman. Village Staff Liaison in attendance, Jen Quirke and Allisa Opyd. There was no one from the public in attendance.

Not in Attendance: Phil Kosanovich, Andre Thames, Tom Hamilton, Ardell Roundtree.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no minutes to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Holiday Light Review and Volunteers

Holiday Lights will take place on Friday, December 6, 5PM to 9PM, in downtown Homewood. The Village will close Martin Avenue, from Chestnut to Hickory Road and Ridge Road, from Dixie Hwy to Harwood. The event will have the following programming:

- Ice Sculpture Demonstrations
- Holiday Brass Band
- Trolley Rides
- Santa
- Food Vendors
- Jingle Holiday Train
- Christmas Tree Sales
- Cookie Decorating
- Mulled Wine Sales
- Souvenir Mugs

Committee members volunteered to sell mugs and mulled wine for two shifts:

5PM to 7PM: N. Spaniak, P. Lau (Economic Development Committee) and H. O'Malley

7PM-9PM: G. Sansone, R. Pascarella, and T. O'Quin.

(600) six ounce mugs were purchased. Mugs are for sale for \$5, mug with mulled wine is \$10. Refills for mulled wine are \$5.

Students with HF High School Band will sell mugs only.

Economic Development Committee will volunteer their time staffing the trolley.

B. Miracle on Martin

A. Opyd reviewed with the group “Miracle on Martin” event, Saturday, December 14, 3PM to 6PM. The event will offer horse carriage rides in the downtown, Santa at the Science Center, s’mores, and “I Spy” windows with the businesses. In addition to the programming, this year the story from Ezra Jack Keats, “The Snowy Day”, will come to life in the Triumph building windows. Each family will receive one book, “The Snowy Day”, to follow along as they view each window, during Miracle on Martin.

Students from H-F High School Band will volunteer to hand out s’mores, The Snowy Day book, and “I Spy” brochures.

C. Noon Year’s Eve Day

Chicago Boyz Acrobats will make their return to Homewood for the entertainment at the Noon Year’s Eve Day event. Once again, for safety reasons, we will have this as a “free ticketed” event for residents. Tickets will be available December 9. The date has been change to open tickets to the public to December 16. White Castle and Comcast are the sponsors for the event.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Trustee Roman reviewed with the committee updates in the Village.

- Grape and Grain has been sold to a group and will be renamed Culture. They will put in a kitchen and be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Until the kitchen is complete, they will cook from a commercial kitchen and bring the food to the space.
- The Triumph building redevelopment is moving forward; however, demolition dates have not been announced. The floors for the building have been determined, first floor restaurant, second floor additional La Banque hotel rooms, and the third and fourth floors apartments. The apartment rates have not been finalized; however, initial thoughts are studio and 1 bedroom will start at \$1200 and two bedrooms will start at \$1600.
- The bank now owns the former Vice District Brewery; brewery infrastructure will be auctioned.

Member S. Olison shared information with the group about the RIP program. Vineyard Church participated with other Chicago area churches in RIP, a medical debt relief program. Through fundraising efforts, RIP program was able to clear the medical debt of more than 4 million dollars for people in the Chicago area.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 13, at 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT: N. Spaniak motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received a second by member H. O’Malley.

Respectfully submitted,
Allisa Opyd