



Village Of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
for January 9, 2017 Meeting

Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut
Homewood, IL 60430

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Phil Kosanovich at 7:00 PM. The following people were in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

Carlyn Coleman, Tom Hamilton, Nancy Spaniak, Robert Pascarella, Board Liaison Karen Washington

Not in Attendance: Shannon Olson, Aredell Roundtree II, Heather Kersten, Kathi Knight, Anthony Brown, Mayor Richard Hofeld

Board and Staff Liaison in attendance: Staff: Zach Thomas, Allisa Opyd

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 28, 2017 meeting minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Due to lack of quorum, the group agreed to hold an informal conversation regarding the agenda items.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The group discussed better ways of mitigating the crowd at Noon Year's Day. The event itself went off mostly without a hitch, but there were significant crowds of people who were trying to find a prime seating location prior to the start of the event. People would spill out into the area needed for the Chicago Acrobat Boyz, which forced CRC members and Village staff to regularly urge attendees to find seating in the bleachers.

The Fire Department expressed significant concern about the large crowd of people massed in the Auditorium lobby, waiting for the balloon drop.

MEETING MINUTES

Next year, it will be worth researching a ticket model for attendance. The tickets would be free and would guarantee entrance. Perhaps ushers to guide people to bleacher seats will also be important, as attendees are reluctant to sit in the bleachers next to strangers unless explicitly told to do so.

For 2017, the Chicago Acrobat Boyz will be dropped in favor of a magician or science-oriented entertainer. The Village staff have identified a few possibilities and will be researching them for an upcoming meeting. The Village will also be investing in some new decorations as the current ones are in bad shape.

The conversation moved toward Chocolate Fest, which is on February 18. The event will be similar to year's past, but a new addition will be a food writer as guest judge. The Village has identified such a judge, Aimee Shugarman, a former Homewood resident, who has an incredible following on social media.

Village staff updated the group on some new events for 2017, including the possibility of an extended summer farmers market and an arts week ahead of Art and Garden Street Fair. More info to come.

The group also reviewed the dates for 2017 meetings and events, deferring voting to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday March 6, 2017, at 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:00 PM the group agreed to dismiss.

Respectfully submitted,
Zach Thomas
Marketing Director, Staff Liaison