



Village Of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
for September 12, 2016 Meeting

Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut
Homewood, IL 60430

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

Phil Kosanovich, Shannon Olson, Robert Pascarella, Nancy Spaniak, Tom Hamilton, Kathi Knight, Lauren Roman, Ardell Roundtree, and Troy O'Quin

Not in Attendance: Carlyn Coleman, Heather Kersten

Board and Staff Liaison in attendance: Mayor Richard Hofeld Village Trustee Karen Washington, Village Staff: Zach Thomas, Allisa Opyd, Sarah Meeks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 1, 2016 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Knight to approve and seconded by Spaniak

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Introductions of the new member of Village staff and to the Community Relations Committee.
 - a) Troy O'Quin: Homewood resident for 1.5 years and works at Thornton Township. Troy is eager to participate in creating a safe and happy environment for not only his family but for the community.
 - b) Zach Thomas, Director of Marketing and Events. Zach and his family have lived in Homewood for 2 years. Zach has extensive marketing, digital communications, and brand strategy experience. Most recently, he worked at the University of Chicago Medicine and the University of Illinois as a marketing and communications manager while also serving as a brand consultant to tech startups. He is excited by this opportunity to help market the Village of Homewood.

- B. Fall Fest
 - a) Review the Event: Opyd reviewed Fall Fest-September 17, 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. The event has programming throughout the day, something for everyone. The day

starts with the Scarecrow contest at 11:00AM with the winners announced at noon. The petting zoo and pony rides will start at 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Chili Cook-Off participants will arrive at 1:00 PM to set-up and heat their chili, judges arrive at 1:30 PM, judging will take place at 2:00PM, and open tasting at 3:00 PM. Homewood Science Center is the recipient of the Chili Cook-Off open tasting. We welcome back Mr. D's Magic show for a 2:00 PM, 3:00PM and 4:00PM performances. The Homewood Science center will be the recipient for the Pumpkin Patch as well; opens at 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. American Dance Center will have a short performance starting at 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM. The movie Hotel Transylvania 2 will begin at dusk. In addition to the various programming, there will be bands performing throughout the day: Ralph's World (children's entertainment) noon to 2:00 PM; Work In Progress (Bluegrass) 3:00 PM to 4:30PM, and we close out the night with Latin Satin Soul from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

- b) Review tasks and volunteers:
 - Assist vendors to booth:** AJ and Kathi
 - Decorating event footprint:** Nancy, Lauren, Tom, AJ, and Carlyn
 - Chili Cook-Off:** Phil, Tony, and Bob
 - Wagon Rides:** Troy and Bob
- C. Review Homewood Block Party: Opyd reviewed the event and asked for feedback from the group. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain, we were unable to have the Pooch Parade, Liar Liar Contest, Mary Macaroni (children's entertainment) inflatable jump house and obstacle course. By early afternoon we were able to go forward with the afternoon scheduled programming: Park District games, ice cream eating contest and water balloon toss. The rain did return; however, did not deter fest participants from enjoying both bands Eric Lambert and Final Say. The group discussed what can be done to make the event feel more like a Block Party and to have more residents attend. The event takes place before students return to school for District 153, many residents take the opportunity to leave town before school begins.
 - a) Determine if we should recognize the Block Party coordinators and give another gift card to Walts, this was done three years ago
 - b) If we keep the event with a Block Party theme, then have participation from residents that coordinate block parties:
 - a) Create small movies of block parties
 - b) Showcase on social media a montage of the block parties
 - c) Show the movie in between bands at the Block Party event
 - d) Create a short movie on how to have a block party
 - e) Do a full year of promotion of block party through social media
 - c) Have stronger promotion of events at farmers market
 - d) Have Community Relations Commission (CRC) presences at all events; consider having a tent with information about the CRC
 - e) Use different bowls for the ice cream eating contest
 - f) Water balloon contest break down for different age groups: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, and then teens
 - g) Liar, Liar contest may need more explanation as to what the contest is. The contest was rained on at both the Block Party and farmers market (rain date)

MEETING MINUTES

D. Noon Year's Eve Day: Opyd asked the group what they would like to see at the next Noon Year's Eve Day event. The group agreed to bring the Chicago Acrobat Boyz back; they bring crowds to the event and are very exciting to watch. The photo booth was very popular; however, we should have a booth that will give the pictures immediately.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Trustee Washington reviewed with the committee:

- Village staff is will hold a public meeting on the Housing Rental Program September 20 and will have a meeting for the landlords on September 29. The Housing Rental Program is designed to hold landlord responsible for the health and safety of their properties.
- Bottle and Bottega will be opening September 26, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Opyd discussed additional information taking place in Homewood:

- Paper Shredding, sponsored by US Bank, will be held on September 24, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- The last electronic take back will be held September 24, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Fire Department Open House on October 1
- Prescription drug take back October 8, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Hobo Night, sponsored by the Rail Committee, will be held on October 8, 6:30 PM to 8:30PM, at the Rail Park on Park Avenue
- Homewood's Farmers Market will close for the season on October 8
- The indoor market will open January 28, at the Irwin Center

NEXT MEETING: Monday October 3, 2016, at 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:25 PM a motion was made by Knight and seconded by Roundtree to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Allisa Opyd
Events Manager, Staff Liaison