

MEETING MINUTES



Village of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
Minutes from October 5, 2020

Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut
Homewood, IL 60430

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM, by Chairman Phil Kosanovich

ROLL CALL: The meeting was held via Zoom due to shelter in place executive order. Members present were Phil Kosanovich, Andre Thames, Shannon Olison, Robert Pascarella, Troy O'Quin, Heather O'Malley, and Gianni Sansone.

In attendance from the Village Board, Trustee Lauren Roman. Village Staff Liaisons in attendance, Jennifer Quirke and Allisa Opyd.

Not in Attendance: Ardell Roundtree, Keith Harris, Nancy Spaniak, Tom Hamilton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was put forth by O'Quin to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes. Chairperson Kosanovich asked to have reflected in the minutes that during this period, we are in a global pandemic, and that is why each committee member is asked to give a personal update. Sansone second the motion with the following change to the minutes:

The minutes will reflect in section A. Community Relations Committee Review:

Chairperson Kosanovich asked for all members participating in the Zoom meeting to give an update on themselves and their families during this time of shelter in order, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Community Relations Committee Review

Chairperson Kosanovich asked for all members participating in the Zoom meeting to give an update on themselves and their families during this time of shelter in order, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Each member gave their personal update to the group.

B. New Businesses In Homewood

Quirke reviewed with the committee the businesses opening in Homewood. The Economic Development Direct continues to receive inquiries from developers wanting to open businesses in Homewood.

- A pita restaurant, similar to serving style of Chipotle; however, a Greek fast food restaurant. The restaurant will open in the old Delano's Pizza located on Dixie Hwy.
- Small Cakes, on Halsted Street, where the former Fratello's was located.
- Saucy Crab to open in the former Roberto's space, next to Kohl's. There is a Saucy Crab in Tinley Park.

Village Update

- Request for Quote was released from the Village to engineering firms for costs to create a safety analysis of 183rd between Halsted to Kedzie.
- New water supplier review is taking place with the EPA.
- The Village will release a new digital marketing campaign to reach city dwellers interested in moving to the suburbs.
- The Homewood Science Center (HSC) received as a donation, the Karate for Kids building, on Ridge Road. The HSC will use it over the holidays as a pop-up store to sell their educational “toys”. After the holidays, it will transition into an enrichment facility.

C. Haunted Homewood and additional Halloween Information

The Village has received great response to Haunted Homewood Halloween House Decorating Contest. Judging will take place on October 29, 6:00PM to 8:30 PM. The winners will be announced on Friday, October 30. Winners will receive a \$25 gift card to Aurelio’s and a yard sign with the their winning category. Categories are **Scariest**, **Special Effects** and **Child Friendly**.

The last Farmers’ Market for the season is Saturday, October 10. The Village will hand out free small pumpkins to children, one per child and while supplies last.

The Homewood Business Association (HBA) is hosting their 2nd Annual Witches Night Out (WNO), on Thursday, October 22, 5pm-9pm. Participants will receive a WNO shopping bag on Martin Ave Square to start their shopping experience. In the bag, they will receive information for participating restaurants and bars with WNO specials. Shoppers are encouraged to dress up in witches costumes and participate in the “Best Witches” costume contest; winner will receive a gift basket from the HBA.

The Village is not promoting Trick or Treating in Homewood; however, offering helpful guidance if people choose to go Trick or Treating. Hours will remain 3pm to 7pm; all must wear a safety facemask, and remain physically distant.

D. Trick or Treat Trails

The HF Park District, Villages of Homewood and Flossmoor are hosting Trick or Treat Trails as an option to trick or treating, on Halloween, 11AM to 2PM, in Millennium Park. Kids will be able to dress in their costumes, go to different sponsors throughout the path in the park, and receive candy. Participants released every half hour in groups of 25, all physically distant, and wearing protective facemasks

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Committee Member Troy O’Quin reviewed with the group an initiative from Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). The Asian Carp infestation has impacted IL waterways, and has negatively affected the local ecosystem. This will be an ongoing battle to rid the waterways of the Asian Carp. MWRD is promoting the carp captured from the waterways is now available in the same form as tuna to be used as carp burgers. Homewood is looking for opportunities to work with MWRD to have people sample a carp burger. The challenge is identifying an opportunity when there are no events taking place in Homewood due to the pandemic. Another possibility is to work with Thornton Township and have a local restaurant prepare the carp burgers and Thornton Township

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 2, at 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT: O’Quin put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting and Pasarella second the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Allisa Opyd