

MEETING MINUTES



Village of Homewood
Community Relations Commission
Minutes from December 7, 2020

Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut
Homewood, IL 60430

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 7:02 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, Robert Pascarella, Andre Thames, Troy O'Quin, Heather O'Malley, Gianni Sansone, and Nancy Spaniak

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

Not in Attendance: Ardell Roundtree, Shannon Olson, Tom Hamilton, and Keith Harris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was put forth by Spaniak to approve the November 2, 2020 minutes, O'Quin second the motion.

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. Village Review

Trustee Roman reviewed community updates with the committee.

- Homewood will have new restaurants opening in 2021:
 - Saucy Crab-on Halsted Street next to Kohl's
 - Mediterranean in the on Delano's Pizza storefront
 - Empanadaus-Ridge Road
 - Mexican at 175th and Dixie Hwy
 - Small Cakes on Halsted Street next to Game Stoppers
- Calumet Country Club (CCC): Trustee Roman reviewed the status of the development; Walt Brown purchased CCC. Next steps for the development will be for the land to de-annex from Homewood and to annex into Hazel Crest.

C. Homewood for the Holidays

- a. Holiday Mugs-Since the Village did not host Holiday Lights this year, the Homewood Business Association gave a mug to each customer with a purchase.

b. Book Walk/I Spy December 5: The Village worked with the Homewood Business Association for “I Spy” windows. A map is still available for participants to find the unique bird in storefront windows. The Village also sponsored a Book Walk, located on the Triumph building windows. The book, Frosty the Snowman, was free to participants at Bookies Book store. Both initiatives were successful and participants practiced social distancing and wore masks.

c. Ice Sculpture Walk December 12: Another fun, but safe initiative for participants is the Ice Sculpture Walk. Six ice sculptures will be placed in the downtown for all to view. A map is available to assist in identifying sculpture locations. Social distancing and masks are required for all participating in the sculpture walk.

d. Holiday Decorating: Applications due December 18, judging December 21, winners announced December 22.

Categories are: Classic Holiday, Clark Griswald, and Best theme. Opyd noted the ideas from the November 2 meeting from the committee:

- Have additional judges, other than just the Community Relations Committee.
- Have participants submit a 30-second video of their decorations, just in case there is inclement weather.
- Let neighborhoods submit as one entry.

The committee will review the contest at the January 4 meeting.

e. Holiday Decorating Contest Judges; Opyd asked if committee members would like to be a judge? Joe Garcia, winner for special effects for the Halloween contest, will be a judge.

f. No Zoom Year’s Eve: It was decided along with the Park District not to have a Zoom Year’s Eve event. The logistics and cost would be challenging. However, is it possible for the Village to coordinate a noon porch/front yard count down? Residents can bang pots and pans while local churches ring their church bells at noon.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Committee member Olison wondered is it possible for local restaurants to allow families to use their kitchens to make their Christmas dinners. Many food pantries and food banks provide food; however, many recipients do not have a kitchen to prepare meals. Is there a way to identify families in need of Christmas meals? Are their restaurants who might be willing to collaborate to provide a full cooked meal on Christmas?

Conversation from the group: Is it possible to use money from the events budget to pay restaurants to prepare food for those in need?

Since the pandemic financial recovery will take time, the CRC should think of ways to assist those in need for next year. Possibly host a toy drive or food drive at Miracle on Martin.

MLK Day of Service is on Monday January 18. Member Sansone sent ideas to the group that are safe and socially distant.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 4, at 7:00PM

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

Respectfully submitted,
Allisa Opyd