



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

September 10, 2020 6:30 P.M.

via Teleconference

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Sharveta Parker, Matt Weiss, McKenzie Edmonds, Maria Van Hoorn, Alicia Obiakor, Molly Fox-Kincaid, and Deba Briscoe (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)

Members not present: Sarah Spencer, Jesse Dercks,

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, School Board Member Clarke Warren, Tr. Kathy Stokebrand, Lt. Tom Liebenthal, Charlie DeSando, Michelle Waite, Natraj Shanker, Sarah Wang, Paula Wheeler, Ellen Eckman, Blanche Kushner, Geoff Davidian

2. Consider Approval of August 13, 2020 minutes

Ms. Edmonds moved to approve the August 13, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion approved by a 6-0 vote.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Discuss Observations in the Community

Ms. Kushner addressed the Commission about her concerns of the Shorewood Police Department targeting people of color in the community. She expressed an example of a person of color who was pulled over for having a tinted license plate, questioning if this should be a reason to be pulled over. Ms. Eckman also conveyed her thoughts related to the person who was pulled over for the tinted license plate. Lt. Liebenthal expressed the department is familiar with several of the newspaper carriers. He also summarized the interaction with the person's plates that were in question. Those that participated in the focus groups were disappointed in the line of questioning. The questions didn't ask the broader question about the purpose of the Police Department. There was a comment about reviewing the RFP process for consultants to assure cultural sensitivity. There was discussion about enforcement of the law based on State statutes as well as local law. Community policing was another concept discussed in the meeting.

5. Staff Liaison Updates

Mr. Burkart reminded the Commission about the 2021 budget sessions involved with the Village Board. The EDI training involving Sam Coleman is included in the budget. The HRC will have Ms. Parker and Ms. Van Hoorn represent the Commission on the EDI

Committee. The consultant is making some great progress on the Police Department Org Study, who recently completed focus groups.

6. Consider Plan to Address Racial Inequities

Mr. Burkart mentioned the plans would serve as a work plan for each of the subcommittees. Once the Commission adopts the plan, it will be shared and presented with the Village Board. Each of the subcommittees presented their plans to the Commission. There was discussion about the next steps and the commitment outside of regular HRC meetings to accomplish these tasks. Additional discussion related to the consultant presentation for the community meeting in October and assessing the consultant's approach to assure that meeting will meet the HRC and community's needs. Mr. Burkart will provide the feedback to Village Manager Rebecca Ewald and Alexander Weiss and then circle back via email with the Commission. Mr. Weiss moved to approve the plans to address racial inequity. The motion seconded by Ms. Edmonds. Motion approved by a 7-0 vote.

7. Subcommittee Reports

No reports.

8. Future Agenda Items and Speakers

No future agenda items or speakers.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Weiss moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Edmonds. Motion approved by 7-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart,
Assistant Village Manager