

Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission Meeting
Monday, April 9, 2012
7:00 P.M. Lincolnwood Council Chambers

1. **Roll Call:** Present: Paul Kramer, Anna A. Pawlowski, Mary Koleff-May, Jean Ikezoe-Halevi, Anjum Ali, Maria Ugarte-Ramos, Martina Keller, Rita Eng. Excused: Stacie Katsiabaros. Guests: Sgt. Mark Weidner, Trustee John Swanson.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved with three corrections.
3. **Report on Expenditures & Reimbursements:** There was \$474.16 in expenditures for posters and flag repairs. We have \$15.16 left in the budget, until 5/1/12.
4. **HRC Leadership:** Jean worked on next year's slate, which is as follows: Jean – chair, Anjum – vice-chair, Stacie – secretary with Martina as backup, finances – Mary, historian – Anna. The slate was approved by vote. There was a discussion regarding the ordinance on excused absences. All commissioners are expected to attend, with 3 or more missed meetings as grounds for dismissal, which will be double-checked.
5. **HRC Award:** As of now, we have no nominations, though both, Maria and Jean may soon hand in one nomination each. The nomination deadline is 4/20/12. Paul heads the nomination committee, with Stacie and Mary.
6. **Food Drive:** All together there were 37 bags of food picked up at various locations and delivered to the Niles Township Food Pantry. The collection box in Lincoln Hall will stay there longer than in other locations, with the Town Hall and the Police Department boxes in place permanently. Mark suggested sending a letter to the Food Pantry alerting them to our food drive and detailing the amount of food collected by Lincolnwood HRC at the end of the drive. The drive ends 4/15/12. Martina may call the Pioneer Press suggesting a photo toward the end of the drive, Rita will check the pantry regarding checking outdated food. Mark showed everyone the two new printed posters, one permanent, one seasonal, and will put a note on the back of each to return them to HRC.
7. **Memorial Day Parade:** The parade will take place 5/28/12. HRC shirts will be found for the new members and Jean brought samples of flower seed packets, perhaps to give away, 4 for \$1.00. We still have pencils imprinted with the HRC name from last year to give away. Small flags, another option, cost \$28.80 per gross (144 flags), American made, with wood handles. Jean noted that if we buy the flags, we can use some during the naturalization ceremony being planned in Lincolnwood in June. We decided to buy 2 gross of flags. Mr. Keller is willing to lend HRC a convertible for the parade, we may use the HRC banner on the car, and perhaps the Food Pantry poster.

8. **Naturalization Ceremony:** Martina has no additional information on the ceremony, which will take place on 6/5/12. She will ask the school for artwork to display, we can also approach art clubs at the schools and at Niles West High School for illustrations. Jan Hincapie will organize a meeting and describe our role in the proceedings, perhaps greeting, informing the participants. The projected time for the ceremony is 3:00 P.M.
9. **Independence Day Concert:** Jean contacted Carol Janossy and confirmed the orchestra. Residents of the Lincolnwood Place may be bused in for the event. Maria is the committee chair and will help with the program. She will also contact Lincolnwood Produce regarding the fruit and ask if we can wash it in the store facilities, and will draft a proposal regarding the donations. Publicity has been sent to Connections. Some members suggested serving cookies or pretzels. As usual, popcorn will be served.
10. **Diversity Month Flag Display:** Flags have been repaired and new ones ordered. There may be a flag-ordering display at the July concert. Rita researched information on small flags for display, Paul will also check a store on Oakton.
11. **HRC's role in CILA Issue:** CILA suggested that we talk to the Village attorney and/or educate the residents regarding this issue. Experts are needed to advise us. Mr. Swanson said the members were very supportive at the Committee of the Whole meeting. He suggested talking to Sister Rosemary from Misericordia regarding frustrations and issues connected with this matter. The vocal majority at the meeting was supportive of CILA. Mark said we have to be involved when/if other institutions than Misericordia will want to come into Lincolnwood. Mr. Swanson noted that the role of HRC is to be welcoming and neighborly, not to create policy, to everyone's agreement. Martina suggested inviting Ms. Viki Rivkin, Fair Housing Test Coordinator, to an HRC meeting. So far Fair Housing was not approached for any information.
12. **Publicity Tasks:** Maria is the committee chair. At Mark's request, the July/August Connections will have an article, sent by Rita, regarding the Independence Day concert and the flag display, as will the Reporter and the Pioneer Press.
13. **Old Business:** Mark is waiting, 'til next meeting, for suggested changes to the HRC brochure. The Committee of the Whole meeting was postponed to 4/17/12, training for committee members will take place on 5/30/12. Anjum will bring cuttings for the scrap book to the next meeting.
14. **New Business:** Jean raised the issue of HRC buying a brick for the new Village area, with deadline on 4/30/12, for \$75.00. There will be 3 lines, 16 characters per line available. Mark noted we can't use HRC funds for this. Martina informed us that plots will be given in Skokie to volunteers willing to grow food for the Food Pantry. Maria suggested there is an orientation for new HRC members in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/14/12.