

Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2012
7:00 PM Lincolnwood Council Chambers
Minutes Prepared by Martina Keller

1. **Role Call:** Meeting called to order at 7:05. Present – Jean Ikezoe Halevi ,Anjum Ali, Martina Keller, Paul Kramer, Stacie Katsiabaros, Chief Robert LaMantia, Anna Pawlowski, Mary Koleff-May and Rita Eng. Absent – Sgt. Mark Weidner, Maria Ugarte-Ramos, John Swanson (Trustee Liaison). Guests - “Buzz” Alpert and Lydia Cohan.
2. **Announcement:** Maria Ugarte-Ramos has resigned from the HRC. As new Chair, Jean would like the meetings to be shorter.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved with no changes.
4. **Report on Expenditures:** As we have begun the new fiscal year, we now have operating funds of \$1,800. Chief LaMantia suggested that we ask the Village for more money if we need it.
5. **Food Drive:** The food drive was a success. All total, the HRC sponsored drive brought in approximately 40 bags of food. Jean will ask Mark to confirm the final tally of bags. Mark will send out thank you notes to each of the participating groups.
6. **HRC Award:** 3 nominations have been made in connection with the HRC award: Dr. Marvin Cooper, Leah Yarrow and Carol Janossy. The award sub-committee selected Leah Yarrow for the nomination. Members unanimously voted to endorse the nomination. Letters will go out Ms. Yarrow and the other nominees. The award ceremony will take place at an upcoming Village Board of Trustees meeting, possibly on June 19. An award and a fruit basket will be given to Ms. Yarrow. Members discussed the possibility of making the nomination process more efficient in the future.
7. **Miseracordia Open House:** Jean met with Mayor Turry, who asked if members of the HRC could attend the open house at the CILA home once it is operating.
8. **Memorial Day Parade:** Martina confirmed that the HRC would have a convertible made available for the parade. A discussion took place regarding signage for the car. Jean will look into it. Members planning on participating in the parade are to meet at 9:45 in the parking lot of Kow Kow at Pratt and Cicero. Members should wear the HRC logo shirts and comfortable shoes. Jean, Martina, Mary, Rita and Anna said they would participate in the parade.

9. **Mandatory Village Commissioner Training:** All Village Trustees and Commissioners are required to attend a training session about the Illinois Open Meetings Law to be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 31. Anyone who cannot attend the training on that particular night will have an option for viewing a broadcast of the training.
10. **Naturalization Ceremony:** Parks & Recreation would like to have 5 HRC members to help with the Naturalization Ceremony on June 5. Martina, Jean, Rita and Anjum volunteered. Anna might be able to participate. No specific preparation is required for our participation, but Martina will contact Jan Hincapie to see if there are any last minute instructions. Martina has been working with Andrew MacCrimmon, art teacher at Lincoln Hall School, to solicit drawings from District 74 children to be used in a congratulatory greeting card distributed to the new naturalized citizens. Four drawings were submitted. After some discussion, members agreed to use all four drawings in the greeting card. Martina will follow up with Mr. MacCrimmon on formatting and artist credit protocol. Stacie volunteered to print the cards on higher quality card stock to save costs on professional printing.
11. **Independence Day Concert:** Rita ordered the popcorn machine. Water will be ordered. Lincolnwood Produce will donate fruit and cookies. We will also need napkins, table clothes & baskets.
12. **Diversity Month Flags:** No news this month. See last month's minutes.
13. **Library Display Case:** HRC hosts a display celebrating cultural diversity at the Lincolnwood Library every year in October/November. Members discussed some themes of items to be displayed from different countries. Suggestions included: toys, musical instruments, flags, food items, recipes and currency.
14. **Buy a Brick:** HRC members bought a brick for the new Village Hall Plaza. Jean explained that the brick will state "Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission." It was not possible to include "2012" because of limited spacing on the brick. Members contributed to the price of the brick individually. No HRC operating funds were used.
15. **Old Business:** Anjum reminded the members that we should have a "new member" orientation when a new member is appointed. At minimum, each new member should be given HRC by-laws, a directory, mission statement and perhaps an informational meeting with a more experienced member.
16. **New Business:** Martina participated in a Multicultural Task Force hosted by Parks and Recreation. The Village is looking to improve its recreational offerings to meet the needs of our uniquely diverse community. Anyone who is interested in the topic is invited to participate in any future meetings.

Anjum raised the issue of giving Maria a present in thanks for her 2 and a quarter years of service to the HRC. Mary raised the issue of the HRC buying its own popcorn machine. Rita suggested it is easier to rent, because we don't have to worry about cleaning the machine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2012.