

Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission Meeting
Monday, September 10, 2012
7:00 PM Lincolnwood Council Chambers
Minutes Prepared by Martina Keller

- 1. Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm. Present – Jean Ikezoe Halevi, Anna Pawlowski, Martina Keller, Paul Kramer, Sgt. Mark Weidner, Mary Koleff-May, Anjum Ali and John Swanson (Trustee Liaison). Excused – Rita Eng. Absent – Stacy Katsibaros,
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August meeting were approved.
Note: under unexpected circumstances, the minutes were prepared by Jean.
- 3. Report on Expenditures & Reimbursements:** The current account balance is \$1,337.32. After some discussion about the location of Anna's receipts for the fruit basket purchased in connection with this year's HRC Award, Mary confirmed that she had a photocopy of the receipt. Mark will check to see if the receipt was submitted to the village for reimbursement. Stacy's receipts for the materials used in connection with the naturalization ceremony cards were not found. Mark submitted a receipt in the amount of \$40 for the purchase of 8 small flags. ***REMINDER: all HRC members seeking reimbursement for official HRC expenditures should submit receipts to Mary at meetings at which time a note will be made in the minutes. Additionally, all HRC members should keep a photocopy of all receipts for their own records.***
- 4. Food Drive Result Letters Sent:** Jean sent out several thank you letters to various parties who collaborated with the HRC in our spring food drive. Mark is in the process of getting specific contact names at the banks that hosted food drive boxes so that Jean can send them thank you letters. Jean also received a thank you letter from the Niles Township Food Pantry.
- 5. Naturalization Ceremony Cards for Art Students/Costs:** Martina brought the leftover cards that were created using artwork by Lincolnwood school children and given to the naturalization candidates in the June ceremony. Jean will send copies of the cards and thank you letters to Mr. MacCrimmon (the art teacher at Lincoln Hall) and the contributing students. As for the costs, Stacy had stated at the last meeting that her receipts for the materials were included in the bag with the actual cards. Martina brought the original bag in which the cards were contained to the meeting and no receipts were found.
- 6. Library Food Donation Drive/Box – Final Update:** Mark arranged for someone within the Police Department to help with the pick-up and transport of the food donation box stationed in the Lincolnwood Library this summer.

7. **Diversity Month Flag Display - Update:** The flag display this year was a success. Mark asked Lincolnwood Public Works personnel, who took down the flags, to separate the faded and/or damaged flags so that we can start assessing which flags need to be repaired or replaced. Anjum and Paul both noted that the HRC banners were still on display as of the time of the meeting despite the removal of the flags and the end of Diversity Month. Mark will look into getting them removed. Mark also reported that he received a donation to purchase a Jamaican flag and a donation for an Assyrian flag. Although we already possess an Assyrian flag, members agreed that the donation should be accepted and used towards the maintenance of flags.
8. **Connections Blurb:** Jean submitted three items for the next issue of Lincolnwood's newsletter *Connections*. The three items include: a thank you to the residents for supporting the food drive, a request for donations for the Diversity Month flag display, and a reminder that the HRC has an open slot to be filled by a resident.
9. **HRC Letters to the Editor – Hate Crimes:** On behalf of the HRC, Anjum submitted a letter to the Pioneer Press in response to the recent hate crimes against Muslims and Sikhs in nearby communities, but nothing was printed. Additionally, Jean submitted letters to the editor to the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun Times* on the same topic, but none of the letters were published. Members agreed that this was a disappointment.
10. **Misericordia Newspaper Articles:** Jean mentioned that the *Chicago Tribune* featured an article about how some residents of Lincolnwood have been publicly oppositional to Misericordia opening a CILA in the village for high functioning developmentally disabled adults. Members agreed that the article paints a negative picture of our community and discussed whether the HRC should take steps to welcome Misericordia and try to change public opinion about the CILA. John confirmed that Misericordia has now been granted the special use permit to operate the CILA in Lincolnwood and therefore no longer has any pending petition before the Board of Trustees or any other Board in the village. With any potential conflict of interest removed, the HRC is now in a position to take action if needed. Members agreed to table the discussion for the next meeting.
11. **Village Training Session Review:** To date, the following HRC members have completed the mandatory training session administered by the Illinois Attorney General and have been issued certification: Rita, Anna, Anjum, Paul, Martina and Mark. Jean completed the training, but cannot print the certification. She is in dialogue with the State of Illinois in order to obtain proof of certification. Mary and Stacy still need to complete the certification process.

12. **Library Display Case Idea:** Jean had previously requested that all members go home and take an inventory of items that could be used for a music theme in the Library's display case for the month of October. Anna has an Indian drum. Jean and possibly Paul each have shofars. Martina has multiple items from around the world. Rita previously sent an e-mail confirming that she had bongos and a violin. Anjum offered to bring some ethnic fabric for draping in the display. Everyone agreed not to bring any valuable items since the display will be in a public place. Jean will discuss dates and times with Julie Ann Nitz-Weiss at the library.
13. **Miniature Flags/Stand:** Mark will be checking on the manufacture of the medallion that will be used on the stand. It should be ready by the date of the Library Ethnic Fest.
14. **Library Ethnic Fest:** Members discussed ideas for a game or activity that the HRC will sponsor at the event. Members agreed that game will be identifying the flags on display. We will bring a large map where Lincolnwood residents can pin their countries of origin. Jean brought a sign-up sheet so members could commit to specific times to man the HRC and food tables.
15. **2012-2013 Meeting Schedule:** Jean asked whether any members know that they will be unable to attend future meetings. Paul and Mary both indicated that they might not be able to attend next month's meeting.
16. **Old Business:**
 - a) Passport to the World was cancelled. Official reason for the cancellation was a lack of registrations.
 - b) HRC website needs to be updated. Mark will take a look at it.
 - c) HRC brochure needs to be updated.
 - d) Shore Gallery Update: John confirmed that the Board of Trustees has not made any final decisions on the issues.
17. **New Business:** Anjum suggested that we start a digital archive of all HRC activities. That would make our annual report to the Board of Trustees easier each year/
18. **Public Questions or Comments:** none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, (Columbus Day) 7:00 pm.