

Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2013
7:00 PM Lincolnwood Council Chambers

- I. **Roll Call:** Present: Jean Ikezoe Halevi, Martina Keller, Mary Koleff-May, Anjum Ali, Rebecca Kohn, Paul Kramer and Anna Pawlowski. Excused: Stacy Katsibaros, Rita Eng. Liaisons: Sgt. Mark Weidner, Trustee Craig Klatzco. Guests: Mary-Pat O'Brien, Joseph Ferrara

- II. **Misericordia Heart& Mercy Presentation & Questions:** Mary-Pat O'Brien (Assistant Executive Director of Residential and Program Services) and Joseph Ferrara (Residential Administrator) discussed the status of the Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) on Longmeadow Ave. in Lincolnwood. The home is currently undergoing renovation. Village compliance is very important to them. They expect occupancy in the fall of this year. They always have open houses for their new CILAs and expect this one to be more publicized and attended. Jean reported that there are 23 people already showing interest in attending. They will let the HRC know how we can help as the event gets closer. Snacks will come from their in-house bakery. Respectful parking is going to be important. They are planning for 8 adult women to live there and a staff person. They usually mix experienced CILA residents with first-timers. Some residents are young and leaving their parents' home for the first time. Martina explained that the HRC has not been vocal on this issue due to ethical reasons but that we would like to know how we can help the CILA today. They responded that they hope that the village residents would be welcoming as the CILA residents will be using local stores, the library, etc. They want no rumors or misinformation to spread. Sgt. Weidner informed them that if they have any concerns at all that they should call the local police and should follow-up with him personally. The CILA will have an alarm system. So far they haven't had any neighbor problems. Misericordia has a bakery and a restaurant on their Chicago campus. CILA residents either have outside jobs or come to the campus daily to work. Volunteers are welcome at the campus and in CILAs but undergo finger-printing and a 3 hour training to be qualified.

- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the April meeting were approved with two small changes.

- IV. **Report on Expenditures & Reimbursements:** It's the new fiscal year so our balance is \$1800.00.

- V. **Food Drive:** An approximate total of 68 grocery bags full of food were collected from this year's drive (including 19 bags from the three schools and 25 bags from the Library). Mark reported that one box and a few posters went missing. Martina will put together thank you letters for all the drop-off locations and a letter to the Niles Food Pantry. Next year we should prepare a letter for each drop-off location explaining the program, how to return the boxes and a contact person.

- VI. **10th Annual HRC Award:** Paul, Rita and Mary met to discuss the three nominations they received, Michael LoVallo, Dr. Jean Weiss and Dr. Marvin Cooper. Based on the content of the nomination forms and the attachments, they recommended Marvin Cooper receive the 2013 Human Relations Commission award. The commission members present motioned and accepted their recommendation unanimously. All the nominees will be thanked and informed. Arrangements will be made to schedule the award presentation at a village board meeting.

Mark will confirm the date. The past recipients of the award will be invited. Anna will work on a gift basket. Martina will contact the Lincolnwood Review. Paul will inform a freelance photographer.

- VII. Memorial Day Parade:** Martina is bringing the convertible car. We will distribute HRC pencils and seed packets and small flags. Anjum will get an HRC shirt to Rebecca.
- VIII. Summer Events/Meetings:** For the July meeting, Mary will send out the agenda because Martina will be out of town. Mark will not be present for the July meeting. Regarding the Independence Day concert, Martina will ask Rita to confirm Carol Janossey, order the popcorn machine and purchase the water. Martina will ask Stacy to negotiate a fruit donation from Lincolnwood Produce. Mary and Paul will help pick up the fruits.
- IX. Diversity Month Flag Display:** Mark will be making some flag repairs soon. He will look into a Lincolnwood business for this service.
- X. Old Business:** 1) Regarding Open Communities, Martina said she found out there's no application form and it has a rolling membership for institutions. The main benefit to us is our commission's name on their website as a supporter of their mission. Rebecca expressed concern that they advocate for quite specific positions and policies and we might lose our neutrality if we become a member. A motion was presented to join Open Communities and was not passed (all "nays" except one "aye"). 2) Jean will write up an announcement for the next issue of *Connections* and submit it to Mark.
- XI. New Business:** We all welcomed new village trustee Craig Klatzco to our commission as our liaison to the board.
- XII. Public Questions or Comments:** none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall Chambers.