

Lincolnwood Human Relations Commission Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2013
7:00 PM Lincolnwood Council Chambers

- I. **Roll Call:** Present: Jean Ikezoe Halevi, Martina Keller, Mary Koleff-May, Anjum Ali, Paul Kramer, Stacy Katsibaros, Rebecca Kohn and Rita Eng. Not Present (Unexcused): Anna Pawlowski. Liaisons: Officer Larry Martin, Trustee Craig Klatzco. Guests: Village Clerk Beryl Herman, Julie Anne Nitz-Weiss of the Lincolnwood Library.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August meeting were approved.
- III. **Report on Expenditures & Reimbursements:** We have a new budget of \$1800. No new receipts were submitted last month. Jean will be submitting a receipt for \$11.98. Mary will send Rebecca the spreadsheet we have been using so she may update it.
- IV. **Urban Land Institute Event:** We were all asked to participate in focus groups on Sept. 10th, as stakeholders in the community, to discuss the development of Lincolnwood's stretch of Devon Avenue. Martina will attend the day session for a one-on- one interview and Rebecca, Jean and Rita will attend the evening discussion.
- V. **Diversity Month Flag Display:** Officer Martin reported that he received a donation for a Vietnamese flag from the "Vietnamese American Community of Illinois". An inventory of the current flags and their conditions will be done as soon as they come down.
- VI. **HRC Materials in Schools:** Julie Anne explained what the library does to reach out to the school community. She suggested focusing on the younger grade schools because we will find more enthusiastic parents. Martina explained the process for sending out fliers in the student's backpacks. After getting approval from the principal, we give them the appropriate number of copies. Opportunities to promote the HRC at the schools include the Nov. 13th Multicultural Concert, the orchestra performance, the Book Fair, Lincoln Hall's play performances and the Nov. 18th Rutledge Hall Family Reading night. We can have a table set up or simply distribute our brochures and talk to parents in the lobby. We have already missed two of the Curriculum nights but Todd Hall is having theirs this Thursday. Stacy will drop off copies of our brochure to Martina and Martina will attend the event.
- VII. **October Library Display:** We agreed that Anjum would take the lead on setting up the "Hats from Around the World" display. Anjum and Martina will meet Sunday, Sept. 29 at 2pm. Julie Anne offered to make paper letters for us to spell something out in the display if we would like. Anyone who has hats or display materials (tape, scissors, thumb tacks, draping fabric and the like) please bring them to the library Sept.29th. Martina will also bring HRC brochures so that we can keep them on the clerk's desk in case patrons ask about our display.
- VIII. **Old Business:** 1) We discussed getting a plaque for Sgt. Weidner to thank him for his years of service with the HRC but it was confirmed that we cannot give gifts of any kind. Martina wrote a thank you letter and we all signed it. 2) Julie Anne came to the meeting to explain that the library is not doing an Ethnic Fest this year (an event in which the HRC always participated). Mainly there were two reasons for this decision, the inability to provide ethnic foods and the fact that the majority of attendees were not Lincolnwood residents. She did tell us that they still wanted to have a signature event that serves all ages and cultures of the community. Planned for spring 2014, the library, the Friends of the Library, the Chamber of Commerce and the HRC would work together for a community-wide Scavenger Hunt. This would send participants all over the village to gather items and then return to the library for a prize. Julie Anne will call a planning meeting about this soon. Another idea was to have multicultural evening events that cater to different age groups. She asked for the HRC to be a resource, help with the planning and take part of the credit for the event. 3) Follow-up was done on putting a list of community resources that was distributed by Dist. 219 on our webpage. Rebecca said

this list is on the 219 website so we can just provide a link from our webpage. Permission will be sought from Niles Township for the link.

- IX. New Business:** 1) Stacy announced she is hosting an event at the Community Center on Sept. 29 at 6pm when they will screen the film "Kisses of the Children" about people that lived in Greece during World War II. There will also be a speaker. The event is free and open to the public. 2) It was suggested that the HRC should sponsor foreign films to be shown on Ch. 6. 3) Jean will submit the latest announcement for *Connections*. She pointed out that there are 4000 Lincolnwood, Skokie and Morton Grove families using the Food Pantry so it is still a large problem. 4) Craig announced that there will be a Sept. 11th memorial event at 7:30 am on Sept. 11, 2013 outside the Village Hall.
- X. Public Questions or Comments:** 1) Beryl asked if we had heard anything more about the open house for the new group home coming to Lincolnwood. Martina reiterated what was explained to us by Misericordia officials who came to a previous HRC meeting. 2) Beryl announced that she is still chairing the Parks and Recreation task force and was seeking ideas to encourage people to enroll in Park District programs. She asked for us to email any thoughts we had on the subject to her or Jan Wu. 3) Beryl is putting together a list of volunteer interpreters. Please send her names of people who can translate for the community. 4) Craig asked the HRC to inform him if there were any announcements we would like him to make at the next Trustees meeting or to have him put on Channel 6. 5) Martina thanked both Beryl and Julie Anne for coming to this meeting and providing good cross-organization communication. It was mutually beneficial. They both agreed to come as often as their schedules permitted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Next meeting: Oct. 14, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall Chambers.

Minutes Prepared by A. Ali