



## **Human Relations Commission**

### **Minutes**

**January 14, 2021 6:30 P.M.**

via Teleconference

**1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Sharveta Parker, McKenzie Edmonds, Molly Fox-Kincaid, Maria Van Hoorn, Matt Weiss, Shavonda Sisson, Charlie DeSando, Ana Belen Duran Lopez, Alicia Obiakor (arrived at 6:42 p.m.)

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, School Board Member Clarke Warren, Tr. Wesley Warren, Lt. Tom Liebenthal, Director of Equity Shari Tucker, Steph Salvia

**2. Consider Approval of December 10, 2020 minutes**

Ms. Edmonds moved to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion approved by a 8-0 vote.

**3. Public Comments**

Ms. Michelle Waite from the board of Shorewood Moving Forward read a letter on behalf of SMF and Shorewood Solidarity Network read a letter that was addressed to the Village Board and Police Chief Peter Nimmer. The letter was about the need of a Police Oversight Committee based on recent events in Kenosha with Jacob Blake. The letter also encouraged Kenosha to conduct a further investigation of the shooting of Jacob Blake. Tr. Warren shared his thoughts about the recent events at the U.S. Capitol involving the current President. Ms. Ann McKaig expressed her feelings about the movement of white nationalism and its disruption on society. Ms. Sisson contributed her thoughts on how some were surprised with the events but we shouldn't be based on how voices have been silenced as we see recent actions to protect whiteness. There was a reflection about how these actions are still close to home here in Shorewood. Ms. Parker also reflected on her thoughts on how to explain the actions at the U.S. Capitol to her daughter and what difficult challenges still exist at home. Ms. Obiakor talked about the emotional fatigue of being fully surrounded by whiteness as a Black student. Ms. Van Hoorn expressed her commitment to continue the hard conversations so we all can improve and address the disturbing actions. Mr. Natraj Shanker provided his perspective on how hatred is increasing all over the world and listening to each other can build bridges to move beyond the hatred and disrespect. Ms. Sarah Wang thanked everyone for sharing their comments.

**4. Discuss Observations in the Community**

No further observations to discuss.

**5. Staff Liaison Updates**

President Rozek presented the signed MLK service proclamation during the January 4 Village Board meeting. The recent manager's memo featured message called attention to the proclamation with a resource on how residents can serve this upcoming MLK holiday. The program for Reggie Jackson, a four part series, will start on January 18 and community members need to register in advance.

**6. Introduction – Shari Tucker, Director of Equity with Shorewood School District**

Ms. Shari Tucker applauded members for having the courage to share their thoughts and truth. Ms. Tucker shared her thoughts related to her position and ways she'll work with the school and community partners to address equity issues in the community. There will be an upcoming four part series where community members can learn from Dr. Clapper about ways to engage with others who express or demonstrate racist actions. Ms. Tucker will share that information with Mr. Burkart to share with the Commission.

**7. Discuss Project Onyx and potential future Shorewood Speaks topics**

Shorewood Business Improvement District Steph Salvia presented on Project Onyx. It is a group that recently formed who is looking to coordinating racial equity and commerce of people of color discussions in several communities. The BID could help sponsor such an event if the Commission would like Project Onyx to be involved. Mr. Burkart shared that Project Onyx could be a possible future Shorewood Speaks topic. Commission members shared some of their experiences with the professionals who are a part of Project Onyx. Based on support expressed from the Commission, Mr. Burkart will setup a meeting with Project Onyx and the Education Subcommittee next week to begin planning for a future Shorewood Speaks.

**8. Subcommittee Updates on Implementing Plans to Address Racial Inequities**

The Policy subcommittee met identified the 8 Can't Wait campaign and reviewed the implementation plan of the Police Org Study on how those initiatives address the actions listed in the 8 Can't Wait campaign. The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of a social worker to be staffed with the Police Department. They are requesting data to get a better sense of the number of calls related to mental health.

The Data subcommittee met to discuss the Police complaint process and ways to collaborate with Shorewood Moving Forward and Shorewood Solidarity Network. Mr. Burkart mentioned the Village Board approved the priorities for action in the Police Org Study. Community members can attend future Public Safety Committee meetings to receive updates on the progress of the initiatives. Mr. Burkart summarized the different organization structures between police, fire, and dispatch.

**9. Update from EDI Committee HRC Representatives**

Ms. Van Hoorn reported that Sam Coleman will be reviewing with the different members on ways to work on organization practices, policies, and procedures within each department.

**10. Other Subcommittee Updates**

No reports.

**11. Future Agenda Items and Speakers**

No future agenda items.

**12. Adjournment**

Mr. DeSando moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion approved by 9-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart,  
Assistant Village Manager