



Human Relations Commission

Minutes

February 20, 2020 6:30 P.M.

Village Hall

3930 N. Murray Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211

1. Call to order.

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

Members present: Sharveta Parker, Jesse Dercks, Sarah Spencer, Matt Weiss, McKenzie Edmonds, Deba Briscoe, Julia Appel, and Mira Lee Prabhu

Members not present: Gladys Mitchell-Walthour,

Others present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, Trustee Davida Amenta, North Shore Health Director Ann Christiansen, Aaron Schutz

2. Consider Approval of January 22, 2020 minutes

Mr. Weiss moved to approve the January 22, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Edmonds. Motion approved by a 8-0 vote.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Discuss Observations in the Community

Mr. Burkart read about a story of a Marquette University graduate student who lives in a duplex and the neighbor's boyfriend is harassing her on a number of occasions. The neighbor has made fun of her accent, telling her to go back to her own country. Ms. Mitchell-Walthour has been the contact and the resident wants to be anonymous. The Commission discussed some strategies, which includes potentially neighbor mediation, asking the Police Department to get in touch with the landlord, resource in pursuing a restraining order, and following up with the Police Department to seek additional options and further clarification on the report.

5. Staff Liaison Updates

Ms. Christiansen provided an update on the potential smoking ban at Shorewood parks and beach. Staff has been doing a great deal of outreach and obtained data in regards to the policy proposal. At the Community & Business Relations Committee, feedback was provided about some of the negative impacts directly towards underrepresented populations. It was recommended to not have an ordinance but as a beach rule to not allow smoking unless in a designated area. The smoking ban at parks will not be considered at this time. There were comments in support of this direction with the encouragement of signs directing people where to go. Other comments related to encouraging residents to mediate on their own as well as impact during events. It was

discussed how underrepresented populations, specially the black population, smoke at higher rates. Lifeguards at the beach would be able to enforce the beach rule during the summer.

Mr. Burkart informed the Commission the Village Board will be reconsidering the holiday decorations policy in March. It was expressed to reach out to the BID for the December event to see if the Commission or other community groups to be involved in the event.

Mr. Burkart informed the Commission about Whitefish Bay's newer internal group called the Bay Bridge. Mr. Burkart discussed some community event ideas while talking with Bay Bridge, such as a racial unity musical concert or a film series. A larger concept being discussed is doing a joint service project with all North Shore communities and the City of Milwaukee during Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There was expressed support for these ideas.

6. Discuss policing efforts and obtaining data for Commission's review

Ms. Edmonds summarized her discussion with the Police Department back in December 2019 and seeking what information would be available. She reported out the ways videos are categorized as well as the policy when viewing body camera video. The data subcommittee agreed to do officer ride-alongs to learn more about the Police procedures. Mr. Weiss expressed during his ride-along he thought about the effectiveness of watching the videos if members don't have the complete awareness of how the police officers are trained to conduct themselves during a traffic stop. Tr. Amenta encouraged the Commission to read the book *Stay Awoke* as recommended by Ms. Mitchell-Walthour in time for the March training. The Commission talked about reviewing a report from the ACLU in previous years and learning more about their current procedures would be helpful for the Commission when considering Police relations with the community. Another idea is having members of the community attend a Police training to have discussions about policing efforts.

7. Discuss Annual Goals and Priorities

The Commission discussed some of the accomplishments in 2019:

1. On the Table event
2. Collaborate with the Police Department to obtain data
3. Finalized holiday decorations policy recommendation
4. Reviewed community survey data and have some action steps 2022
5. Developed rules and conduct for the Human Relations Commission
6. Had an educational booth at the Farmers Market
7. Conducted ride-alongs with the Police Department with an article in Shorewood Today
8. Collaborate with Shorewood Moving Forward and discussion and initiatives
9. Added students at official members
10. Provided a response to the CDA-Village Board Strategic Survey
11. HRC discussed Transportation and Parking study to develop some future recommendations for Village Board consideration.

8. Subcommittee Updates

a. Education

Mr. Burkart let the Commission know that Ms. Mitchell-Walthour is finalizing the training for the Commission at the next meeting, March 11.

b. Policy

Ms. Prabhu summarized the last policy subcommittee meeting. The policy subcommittee would like to setup bias trainings for landlords for duplexes. Additional trainings could be setup for tenants and how to mediate conflicts with neighbors. UWM could be a nice resource since they already have this training for their students. In addition, they want to review the proposed parking recommendations and determine impacts for underrepresented populations. Another topic the subcommittee will review is inclusive architecture in the public buildings, which will review the needs of buildings for those with disabilities, gender neutral bathrooms, and baby stations in all bathrooms.

c. Data

Their report was incorporated in agenda item #6.

9. Discuss Action Items for March

Mr. Burkart asked the subcommittees to propose priorities by March 4.

10. Future Agenda Items and Speakers

Add a community block party to a future agenda. Trick or treating will be on the April agenda for discussion.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Briscoe. Motion approved by 8-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart,
Assistant Village Manager