

VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

January 26, 2021
MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
Vice chair Mustafa called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
Present: Vice Chair Mustafa, Commissioners Riffice, Harris, O'Shea, Leon-Thompson (7:12 p.m.)
Absent: Chairman Graham, Commissions Flynn, Al-Amin. Gordon
- III. Residents Present Wishing to Address the Commission
None
- IV. Approval of December 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Vice chair Mustafa called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020. Motion: Commissioner Riffice, Second: Commissioner O'Shea
- V. FY21 CRC Budget
The Commission's remaining budget is \$1,860. During the past month, the only expense was \$280 for 10 copies of Caste to donate to the library for the One Book One Flossmoor program. The purchase was made from Bookie's.
- VI. 2021 Events
 - a. Review recent events/Discuss planned upcoming events
 - i. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Feedback*
Commissioner Riffice shared that individuals, families and community groups contributed to the DIY bundles, including IJP, Skyline of America, sororities, and others. We collected more than 200 bags ranging from food, arts and crafts, hygiene and hats and gloves, filling up her minivan twice. The items went to Respond Now, South Suburban Family Shelter, Bethel Community Services and Jones Community Center. It was a great response and we received a lot of good comments from residents because it was relatively inexpensive and easy to do. This may be

- a good option for the future, so residents have the flexibility to participate.*
- ii. Juneteenth 2021 – Allison has been in regular communication with Destiny from You Matter 2 to facilitate the event. You Matter 2 is revisiting their options based on current COVID-related restrictions.
 - iii. One Book, One Flossmoor program
Caste – February 18 – The virtual book club is scheduled for February 18. Commissioner Leon-Thompson requested that the information be shared on Instagram as that is another place residents who may not be on Facebook will look.
 - iv. Black History Month – *The Village will display the Pan-African flag in February. Commissioner Riffice asked that the Village provide information or a statement that she can share with her neighbors who may have questions about the flags. Allison also stated that the Village has scheduled a Zoom presentation by Mama Edie, a storyteller, for February 20 at 11 a.m.*
 - v. 2021 New Resident Event – April 10
We're coming up on the new resident event. We have had 62 new residents since September and we will invite residents who were invited to the last event and may have missed it. Commissioner Riffice mentioned that her pastor from Flossmoor Community Church enjoyed the event; her one observation was that she missed the opportunity to talk to other people who moved into the community. She enjoyed the trivia but would have liked to talk to other residents. As we go through planning, we should try to provide opportunities to connect. Commissioner O'Shea suggested finding ways to get more residents to introduce themselves. Commissioner Riffice suggested doing some advance polling to connect with residents with like interests. Student liaison Hubbard suggested using breakout rooms in Zoom and Commissioner Leon-Thompson suggested putting those at the end. The Commission also suggested using more gift cards including as an incentive for signing up early.

- VII. Community Conversations Follow-Up
Commissioner Riffice shared that Stephanie Byrd and Matt Epperson are considering a future series but haven't yet settled on a topic or dates.

Allison recapped the conversation at the previous CRC meeting surrounding the blue line graphic on police vehicles. Following the meeting, Commissioner Riffice shared that the conversation was cryptic and that she was not aware of the backstory on the issue of the blue line. Vice chair Mustafa stated the Commission agreed to bounce anything we do off of the Commission's Purpose & Intent to see whether we are fulfilling our purpose. Anytime we have an event, we should use the document in front of the issue, not just after, whether it's a discussion thread on Facebook or the New Resident Event. She read what she had asked previously about whether the commission wanted to respond to conversations on social media. Commissioner Riffice stated that the conversation about the blue line could have been shared with the commission at a previous date. It doesn't hurt to tell the Commission these things to be able to bounce them off the Purpose & Intent. Commissioner O'Shea shared that he has a personal policy not to engage on social media, especially on items that may be seen as political and Commission Mustafa agreed that any time she engages on social media, she tries to be a voice of reason. Vice chair Mustafa suggested the commission continue to serve as eyes and ears if something bubbles up on social media. Allison said that the Village will keep in mind that we need to keep the Commission informed so that the Commission can help guide Village actions.

VIII. Resident Reminders and Communication – Hot topics

Commander Taylor shared that the police department tries to be ahead of any issues that may affect the narrative around law enforcement. Commander Taylor is involved in forming the citizens' advisory committee for the police department. He also reminded the group that carjackings are increasing in the Chicago area and encouraged residents to continue to be vigilant. We are staying on top of it. Commissioner O'Shea asked whether the recent carjackings have been lethal. Commander Taylor said that he knew of only one fatal carjacking in Chicago. One area of concern is around gas stations, although they can happen anywhere. For example, there have been extra patrols at the Speedway in Olympia Fields. Commander Taylor that our community is one of the safest in the south suburbs and in Illinois and we are doing the best we can to remain that way.

IX. New Business

Vice chair Mustafa asked Allison to clarify the number of commissioners who can communicate outside meetings under the Open Meetings Act.

X. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Vice chair Mustafa called for a motion to adjourn. Motion: Commissioner Riffice. Second: Vice chair Mustafa. Motion passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.