

# VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

June 28, 2021

7pm

Village Hall and via Zoom

## MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Graham called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

II. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Graham, Commissioners (abbreviated Cmmr) Mustafa, Leon-Thompson, O'Shea, Harris, Riffice, Ramsey, Deugaw

Staff: Commander Taylor, Assistant Village Manager Allison Matson (abbreviated AVM)

Absent: Cmmr Al-Amin

III. Residents Present Wishing to Address the Commission

- Ms. Thayer Herte, 33 year Flossmoor resident; would like to become more involved in community relations
- Maggie Bachus and Stephanie Wright to share updates on the upcoming Flossmoor Gem:
  - The Gem is a half-marathon footrace scheduled for Sep 11
  - There will be a community meeting on Mon July 19 from 6-8pm at Wiley's Grill; Community and Spirit captains will be recruiting volunteers, answering questions, offering more details
  - Just like 2019, neighborhood blocks will decorate homes and streets with various themes
  - 'Quieter' sections of Flossmoor were identified in 2019 and some of those locations will be on the route
  - Local businesses including but not limited to realtors are supporting and sponsoring the event
- Bike the Gem is a biking event offered to the community; it is Aug 7, 10am; meetup is at the IJP parking lot
  - Helmets are required; waivers must be signed
  - Gem staff will look into discounted helmets at Meier
  - The route will be clearly marked
  - There is no cost

IV. Approval of May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cmmr Riffice put forth a motion to approve the Minutes as written; Cmmr Mustafa provided a second; motion carried, all in favor

V. FY22 Budget

New fiscal year began May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022. Account balance was \$3,000

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### VI. Comments by Trustee Perry Hoag

Trustee Hoag discussed the history of the CRC with the commissioners and public attendees. He has been a trustee 25 years, since 1996. Trustee Hoag noted the numerous community changes in that time – businesses, fests, public facilities, subdivisions exist today that were not present then. He noted that for a long time, Village trustees were white men and one white female.

When the Ballantrae subdivision was constructed, most residents were African American. Trustee Hoag noted that the Flossmoor Hills and Heather Hill subdivisions were also predominantly African American. Officials did not want a segregated community and they saw it necessary to explore and address ways to transform Flossmoor into a successfully diverse community. It was noted that the Trustees missed an opportunity to address the black face incident as a united community and many lessons were learned from that. Thus was borne the idea of a Community Relations Commission as a forum for diversity discussions to take place. Going forward, Trustee Hoag would like to see the CRC embark on an ambitious effort to add residents who have differing opinions that are too often not shared in public forums.

#### CRC FEEDBACK:

- Cmmr Ramsey suggested using the Neighborhood Network to connect with more people; he inquired about ways that the community can learn about those on the CRC.
- Cmmr Mustafa stated that our efforts need to match our bandwidth; as volunteers we need to be realistic and reasonable in our efforts.
- Cmmr Graham cited the Gem as being a good example of the community gathering in an organic, rather than scripted or planned, manner
- AVM Matson identified myriad ways that the CRC has created, expanded, and guided discussions, efforts, and events.
- Cmmr Deugaw said that Diversity is inviting people to the dance and Inclusion is actually dancing with them. She suggested that we need ‘ambassadors’ for new residents.

### VII. CRC Guidance/Bylaws

- Cmmr Riffice provided the background on how the role of a commissioner came to light; AVM Matson said it is a succession plan for the next generation of CRC commissioners.
- Cmmr Graham read the document. Cmmr Deugaw added ‘ability’ to the various diversity categories.
- Cmmr Deugaw asked how we measure the success of the CRC and she was directed to read the Measures of Success defined in the Purpose and Intent document.
- Cmmr Ramsey asked how we engage residents when they don’t attend events. AVM Matson explained that the Village survey will be updated and sent to all residents; the feedback could lead to deeper insights or hidden perceptions among residents.
- Cmmr Riffice suggested the Village engage in an effort to ‘Meet Your Commissioner’.
- The final version will be presented and adopted at the next CRC meeting.

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### VIII. CRC Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 27. The day change (Monday or Wednesday) will be discussed at the next meeting.

### IX. 2021 Events – tabled until July 27

- Juneteenth
- 2021 New Resident Event – Evaluation
- National Night Out – August 3 from 5 pm to 8 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on July 3 -begins at PJH through downtown Flossmoor
- Back to School Movie in the Park – August 13
- Flossmoor Fest – September 11 – Noon to 10:30 p.m.

### X. Community Conversations Follow-Up

Bystander Intervention Training was suggested by the Mayor in response to anti-racist hate. Cmmr Riffice and AVP Matson will talk with Catherine Shieh (Advancing Justice – Chicago) to learn more about the program and will provide an update at the next meeting.

### XI. Resident Reminders and Communication – Hot topics

- Commander Taylor provided an update on the radar speed sign on Flossmoor Road between Brassie and Braeburn. Analytics determined that the 3300 vehicles passing from May 23 to June 15 were traveling under the speed limit. There were very few violations. Data continue to be collected to see if additional tracking and/or monitoring is merited. May 23-June 15: average daily speed was 27 mph (3 miles under speed limit of 30)
- Between May 31 and June 16, there were 13 incidents of trespass or burglary of a motor vehicle. Keep your doors locked.
- Public Service Requirements will be issued to remind drivers that viaducts will flood during heavy rainstorms.
- Commander Taylor was proud to announce that there were no law enforcement incidents or medical concerns at the Juneteenth celebration. Reports of fireworks in the neighborhoods were called in; he encouraged all to observe the law against fireworks displays.

### XII. Old Business – tabled until July 27

- Strategic Planning Survey
- HF's Victors Organization
- New Resident Packet
- One Book, One Flossmoor: Book could be Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

### XIII. New Business

Cmmr Harris said Flossmoor Hills is planning a Jazz in the Hills neighborhood event in September and a Neighborhood Garage Sale on August 14.

### XIV. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 27

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07