

# VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

July 27, 2021, 7pm

Village Hall

## MINUTES

### I. **Call to Order**

Vice Chairperson Mustafa called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

### II. **Roll Call**

Present: Commrs Mustafa, O'Shea, Harris, Riffice, Ramsey, Deugaw, Al-Amin

Staff: Cmdr Taylor, AVM Manager Allison Matson

Absent: Cmmrs Graham and Leon-Thompson

Special Guest: Mayor Michelle Nelson

### III. **Residents Present Wishing to Address the Commission**

- No residents were present to address the CRC

### IV. **Approval of June 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Cmmr Riffice put forth a motion to approve the Minutes as written; Cmmr Al-Amin provided a second; motion carried

### V. **FY22 Budget**

No changes to the budget at this time; need to use budget dollars to provide new commissioners with polo shirts; amount available at time of writing: \$3000

### VI. **CRC Guidance/Bylaws**

- Cmmr Mustafa provided Mayor Nelson with a summary of the Role of the Commissioner and the Purpose and Intent of the CRC.
- Mayor Nelson suggested we include a statement on social media comments. The statement is below:
  - Commissioners are reminded that they represent the Village and should be mindful of that when participating in the Village's social media activities or commenting on items related to Village activities and business. Posts that cast the Village in a negative frame are discouraged. Commissioners are encouraged to directly discuss any concerns with Village staff or elected officials rather than using social media.
- Terms of service were discussed including the items below:
  - An enabling ordinance stated that membership on the CRC is for a three-year term but it is not practiced consistently
  - The CRC recommended that a process be put in place by the Mayor's office to select, re-commission, and/or discontinue service by individuals serving on any commissions and boards.
  - Those who are continuing as commissioners should be acknowledged by the Mayor and Trustees

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- AVM Matson will document the terms of service already completed for all CRC members as a public record and present same at the next meeting
- Cmmr Mustafa put forth a motion to present an updated version of the Role of the Commissioner at the next meeting; Cmmr Ramsey provided a second; motion carried
- Mayor Nelson reappointed Cmmr Mustafa to the CRC

### **VII. Motion to Adopt Chapter 9, Article 2 of the Municipal Code (Remote Meeting Attendance)**

- There are limited circumstances that allow a commissioner to attend a meeting remotely. The Flossmoor attorney advised that the above-mentioned section of the Municipal Code be approved by the CRC
- Cmmr Riffice put forth a motion to adopt Chapter 9 Article 2 of the Municipal Code; Cmmr Degauw provided a second; motion carried

### **VIII. Discussion with Mayor Nelson**

- Mayor Nelson acknowledged CRC accomplishments, notable during a pandemic year: MLK Day of Service, Black History Month, Juneteenth, New Neighbor Event
- Mayor Nelson shared some of her thoughts:
  - She'd like to share the Village calendar with residents and is investigating how other communities communicate with residents
  - Make sure that we have the community events calendar for the CRC set by end of prior year
  - Make sure residents know when the CRC meets so they can participate
  - The Neighborhood Network is a group that connects Flossmoor's 11 neighborhoods and provide opportunities for exchanging ideas. She would like to reconvene FNN later this summer
  - Conversations about race, diversity, equity, inclusion are important and she has joined two different mayor groups to continue to explore. Flossmoor is doing an amazing job but we don't publicize it. She wants to highlight what we've done as a Village and include the information in our website
  - Mayor Nelson noted that Flossmoor Community Church is a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion and suggested there may be opportunities to support one another (we're on that already)
  - Strategic Planning is underway and there are 3 upcoming community meetings – Aug 19, 6pm, Village Hall; Aug 21, 10am, Village Hall; Aug 25, 7pm, Zoom
  - Events should be promoted at Flossmoor.org and DiscoverFlossmoor.org
  - Promote and support the police department through positive engagement; Mayor Nelson wants the good relationship between citizens and police to have lots of visibility
  - One way to remind citizens of events is through text messaging; AVM Matson will investigate a text database
  - Mayor Nelson asked if we would like a Trustee to serve as a liaison? CRC responded that an annual conversation with a Trustee may be an option. In the event of a crisis, however, the CRC would like to have a Village liaison.

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- Neighborhood awards for gardens, holiday decorations, home improvements? Something to think about. No activity underway at this time on the CRC.
- How are we identified as commissioners? Is it possible to highlight the commissioners on an annual basis? Suggest a pamphlet introducing commissioners and being more visible to new businesses.
- Cmmr O'Shea asked if there were something the Mayor would like us to do that we are not doing? Absolutely not was her reply. So we will keep doing our important work and having fun while doing it.
- Cmmr Mustafa mentioned an article she wrote in the local Chronicle (July 26) related to black history and the Conservatory Vintage & Vinyl shop in Flossmoor

### **IX. CRC Meeting Schedule**

- We will amend our existing Tuesday schedule to meet on the 4th Monday going forward.

### **X. 2021 Events**

- New Resident Event will be held in April 2022. Cmmr O'Shea is working with Amy on a new resident packet; suggest having semi-annual events at some point.
- National Night Out – August 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Events and attractions include reps from specialized units of Police Dept; maybe a helicopter, fire dept vehicle extraction, meet new fire chief, fire & police chief grilling hotdogs
- Back to School Movie in the Park – August 13 – Raya and the Last Dragon –Flossmoor Park; movie at 8:15
- Chamber Music Night – August 18 at 5:45 p.m. – IPO playing on the Flossmoor Library front steps
- Flossmoor Fest – September 11 – Noon to 10:30 p.m. – Cmmr O'Shea is soliciting ideas for what the CRC can do to draw people in. We want to promote e-news, One Book One Flossmoor. Cmmr Degauw suggested seeking volunteer ambassadors for the new neighbors; AVM Matson prefers the Neighborhood Network pursue this.
- One Book One Flossmoor – Killers of the Flower Moon; need to nail down the date at the next meeting
- Community Meeting for the Hidden Gem on July 29 from 6-7 at Wiley's

### **XI. Resident Reminders – Commander Taylor**

- 4th of July fireworks - only 6 calls, no citations, no confiscation, no injuries
- Reminder to lock your car; Ballantrae resident's car was recently broken into and the garage door was opened but there was no entry.

### **XII. Old Business**

- AVM Matson and Cmmr Riffice will participate in Bystander Intervention Training on Aug 18 and will determine if it is a fit with Flossmoor. Information will be presented at the next meeting.
- Strategic Planning – underway

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- HF's Victors Organization (a young group of HF black men who are seeking ways to be more engaged in our community) – no current activity underway; Cmmr Ramsey would like to be involved
- Youth Commissioner – AVM Matson will reach out to Zoe to see if she still has an interest

**XIII. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

Next Meeting: July 27

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07

Cmmr O'Shea put forth a motion to adjourn; Cmmr Degauw provided a second; motion passed

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10