

**VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**

February 27, 2023, 7pm
Village Hall

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairperson Leon-Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Leon-Thompson, Hatcher-Holmes, Dorsey, O'Shea, Ramsey, Deugaw, Riffice

Absent and Missed: Cmmrs Young, Al-Amin, Acting Police Chief Taylor

A quorum was present

Staff Present: Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue

Trustee: Trustee Mustafa

Community Attendees:

- Eric Crump online
- Jenny Curtis, Don Gross, Tom Ricci, one additional guest

Residents Wishing to Address the Commission:

- Trustee Mustafa is available to volunteer for the new resident event on Apr 1; March 1 there is a forum at the HF Auditorium for SD 233 candidates sponsored by the League of Women Voters at 7pm; March 15 there is a forum at Flossmoor Village Hall for Flossmoor Village Trustees sponsored by the League of Women Voters at 7pm
- Jenny Curtis stands in solidarity with Madeline Miller's family; she stated the response from the Village is 'smoke and mirrors' and the public is being gaslighted
- Don Gross echoed Jenny Curtis' comment and urged the CRC to be proactive instead of reactive
- Tom Ricci (Oak Lawn) suggested the Village should be accountable for the death of Madeline Miller

In response to the comments from Curtis, Gross, and Ricci, Chair Leon-Thompson reiterated the responsibilities of the CRC and thanked the community attendees for their contribution

Approval of January 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Cmmr Riffice brought forth a motion to approve the minutes as corrected with a second by Cmmr O'Shea. Minutes were passed as written.

Resident Reminders – Chief Taylor

No Resident Reminders; Chief Taylor is ill

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Old Business

MLK Day of Service Recap

- AVM Bogue said 40% of survey respondents learned of MLK Day of Service from social media posts by the Village; next year, we will expand reach by working with SD 161 and SD 233 again to share the information
- Over 500 volunteers participated
- A recap was presented to the Trustees in January and the CRC was congratulated for their contribution to the community
- Cmmr Leon-Thompson said this appears to be the most successful day of service to date
- Cmmr O'Shea noted that there were more hands-on opportunities and which encourages more engagement
- Cmmr Riffice asked for a future agenda topic to consider changing the time of year and the venue for the SHP event; it will go on an agenda after the New Resident Event

Black History Month Recap

- Cmmr Leon-Thompson suggested that the CRC does not need to lead the BHM effort; the community is better served if it is passed on to community groups, schools, and other organizations.
- The BEST event was at HF where community STEM leaders (nurse, pharmacist, engineers) met with students. The panel presentation showed how the school, village, and community could partner to create something positive for everyone.
- Jamie said that when we identify the engagement element and provide opportunities, the community benefits

Community Forum Recommendation Presentation and Discussion

Cmmr Leon-Thompson presented the deck that will be shared with the Mayor and Trustees on Mar 6 and asked all CRC members to be present; Jackie and Jamie will NOT be present

- Molly noted a gap in the content of the presentation because we should state what we are doing to train our safety officers, what programs we are recommending for them, and how bias plays into the decisions that police make
- Molly requested that we state that diversity includes a socio-economic element
- Kevin suggested that police training demonstrates accountability (de-escalation training, mental health training?)
- Create a 'dashboard' to show that staff has been trained/retrained/certified
- Contact Chief Taylor for a list of training classes.
- Jamie asked what is in place and how does the public know about it
- Do other communities provide training; is training part of their public policy?
- Stephen said coffee with a cop should be 'conversation' with a cop
- He offered an acronym – PEACE – proper education always corrects errors
- Jamie suggested a more diverse set of photos
- NOTE: Jamie and Jackie will not be at the Mar 6 Trustee meeting

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New Business

New Resident Event – April 1, 2023

- Sandy, Jamie met with Stephanie re: new resident event
- It's the same format as 2022 including speakers, raffles, mini taste of Flossmoor
- Jamie and Sandy asked for all hands on deck at 2:30 on Apr 1, event starts at 3:30
- Sandy will let us know when the gift bags will be ready to be stuffed
- Don't forget to get a coat rack
- This is not a campaign event; CRC discourages promotional materials and will not be invited to the podium
- The CRC will need to provide a recap to Village Trustees in May

Good of the Order

- Cmmr Deugaw said March 8 is International Women's Day; be sure to acknowledge the day and share it with others

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- Cmmr O'Shea brought forth a motion to close the meeting, Cmmr Deugaw provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm
- Next meeting is March 27, 2023