

VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 24, 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 (remote), Dorsey, O'Shea, Deugaw, Hatcher-Holmes, Al-Amin, Ramsey, Riffice

Absent and Missed: Cmmr Young

A quorum was present

Staff Present: Jonathan Bogue, Police Chief Jones, Deputy Chief Taylor

Special Guest: Ava Mathis, youth commissioner candidate

There were no residents presents to address the CRC

Chairperson Leon Thompson welcomed Chief Jones

Approval of March 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Cmmr Al-Amin brought forth a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Cmmr Deugaw. Minutes passed as written.

Resident Reminders – Chief Taylor

- To combat vehicle thefts, Flossmoor is looking into steering wheel locks for Kia/Hyundai
- There was a Street Crime meeting at the Markham courthouse; police from all over share intelligence at this regularly scheduled meeting
- The Net 3 Tactical Unit deters various crimes; it consists of officers from many different towns; trying to get that unit re-assembled
- Cmmr Ramsey: Cook County Sheriff Dept rolled out a program with identification stickers in a car that track the vehicle if stolen; he will talk more in detail at another time to the FPD
- Cmmr Riffice asked for feedback from police and mayor regarding the police investigation from July; Chief Jones affirmed the request and will reply back to the CRC soon. He asked for time to better understand the community and the employees within the village.

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Message from Chief Jones:

Chief Jones stated he was honored to be with the CRC and presented some remarks and details of importance:

- Flossmoor is experiencing vehicle thefts (ex: Hyundai and Kia models stolen in one community and dumped on Vollmer Road); all vehicles were recovered
 - Police continue to put out the message to residents to lock their cars and parked in well-lit areas
 - Police are considering initiatives in near future to deter vehicle theft
 - Juveniles are mostly responsible for thefts; it's joyriding, crimes of opportunity
- Regarding community events, the police will work with area partners to ensure safety but some police actions may not be disclosed to the public
- Youth Services is a top priority to the Chief
 - The FPD will continue to partner with school districts and engage high school and junior high students
 - They will get out in the community more with officers, interact with kids more, host events to build stronger relationships, get kids on right path
 - Many factors cause acting out behavior among youth including the residual effects of the pandemic, trauma, family issues
 - Cmmr Deugaw asked what residents can do when teens fight; Chief suggests intervention as soon as safely possible
 - Cmmr Al-Amin asked how to teach kids to be accountable

Old Business

New Resident Event

- Cmmrs O'Shea and Hatcher-Holmes: A fantastic event with an abundance of food, music, community representation, and giveaways. The turnout was smaller than anticipated but those who attended saw the best of Flossmoor. Suggestions for next year include
 - A date and time change (event was ½ hour too long)
 - Individual outreach to invite new residents
 - Consider having the event every two years if next year's event isn't well attended

New Business

Flossmoor Fest

- The CRC table will have giveaways from the schools and park district; Stephanie is working on that
- The CRC will brainstorm as the event nears
- Cmmr Hatcher-Holmes asked about ways to engage youth
- The footprint of the fest will be adjusted for public safety reasons

Inclusivity

- Cmmrs Leon-Thompson and Deugaw participated in an interview regarding Flossmoor's aging population; it's important to include not only the general population, but the aging and youth populations for inter-generational participation

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New Student Liaison

- Ava Mathis is a junior at HF; she is an honor student, member of YouMatter2, member of Jack & Jill (Monarch Cities Chapter), and so much more. Ava is thankful for the opportunity to work with CRC due to our sense of community and wants to help bridge the gap between high schoolers and the rest of the community. Ava was unanimously voted in as the new CRC student liaison.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Oct 12, 2024

- Discussion tabled until another date

100 Year Anniversary

- Cmmr Leon-Thompson challenged us to come up with some ideas on how to recognize Flossmoor's century of progress, how to partner with the village, and how to improve on the current tagline: 'Happy Birthday, Flossmoor'. Some ideas include:
 - Recognize the oldest resident, the youngest resident
 - Time capsule
 - 100-year brew from Flossmoor Station
 - New logo and t-shirt
 - Work with Cmmr Mathis to learn what the youth would like to see for the celebration
- Jonathan Bogue commented on the additional budget of \$50k for the event; suggested that micro-events may occur, new signage could acknowledge the 100-year anniversary
- Cmmr Riffice suggested a sneak peak of the anniversary events for Flossmoor Fest

Good of the Order

- Jonathan Bogue is working on reverse 911 communication which will communicate with residents during emergencies; it sends alerts to people; need to sign residents up for that plan
- Flossmoor may have an opportunity with Greater Chicago Food Depository for a combined event for the high school and CRC; the village staff is working on it
- The Covid Emergency order will expire for remote meetings; may not be able to have remote meetings after next week
- An intergovernmental crisis communication plan (with Homewood, the libraries, park district, schools) is being developed to enable quick actions if a crisis arises

Final Remarks from Chairperson Leon-Thompson

- May 6 is Park Pride Day
- Many thanks to Chief Jones
- Welcome to Ava Mathis
- Many thanks to the CRC Commissioners for their volunteer service

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- Cmmr Riffice brought forth a motion to close the meeting, Cmmr Al-amin provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm
- Next meeting is May 22, 2023