

VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 26th 2019
7:00 pm

Flossmoor Village Hall Committee Room

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
Chairperson James Cheung called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.
- II. Roll Call
Present: James Cheung, Chair; Kate Goesel, Vice Chair; Commissioners Rosalind Mustafa, Myron Graham, Maggie Bachus, and Phillippa Leon-Thompson; HFHS Liaison Jonnisha Bennett
Absent: Commissioners Scott Ford and Tony Parker
Staff: Laura Brennan-Levy, Program and Event Coordinator
- III. Residents Present Wishing to Address the Commission
Please keep comments to less than 5 minutes per person. Thank you.
There were four visitors present at the meeting.
-Anna Pauls, Flossmoor Librarian, came to share the library newsletter, adult programming flyer, and to introduce a new library outreach program called "Library in a Bin". The library is offering Flossmoor businesses with waiting rooms a bin of children's books to occupying children while the adults are conducting business. Anna had a list of businesses she planned to approach, and the commissioners offered a few more suggestions. Laura requested a bin for the Village Hall lobby.

-Flossmoor residents present included Christopher Cogswell of Bruce Avenue, Marcus Yancy of Leavitt Avenue, and Jaime O'Shea of Central Drive. Jaime O'Shea has submitted an application for the Community Relations Commission. All residents came to observe meeting and had no comments at this time.
- IV. Approval of December 2018 Minutes
Chairman Cheung asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2018 meeting. Motion: Commissioner Graham; Second: Commissioner Goesel. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.
- V. CRC Budget Review
\$990 in budget for MLK Day of Service and New Resident Event.
- VI. CRC Events/Programs
 - A. MLK Day of Service Recap (January 21, 2019)
Nearly 900 volunteers served the community through 18 different projects, which ranged from serving the homeless to supporting active military and veterans to outdoor environmental projects. The largest project took place at Flossmoor Village Hall, where the Jack and Jill of America, South Suburban Chicago Chapter connected hundreds of community members through a Respond Now Food Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Program.

1. Project Host & Volunteer Feedback

Commissioners and community volunteers reported on project sites they visited. Resident Marcus Yancy commented that some projects were not true “service” projects, and should not be part of event. Commissioner Graham suggested giving project hosts more guidance on projects, to focus more on service, and suggested outreach to other surrounding communities. Commissioner Mustafa suggested setting a goal and defining service projects. Overall, the commission appreciated the new project hosts and sites.

2. Connecting Residents to Community Service Opportunities

Laura will be creating a *Community Service Opportunities* page on our website, featuring direct links to local organizations with on-going volunteer needs.

B. Black History Month Program Recap (February, 2019)

Amy Kent, Communications Manager, worked with Commissioners Mustafa, Parker, and Graham, as well as community volunteer Linda Stanford, to feature stories on six African-American Flossmoor business owners. The stories are on the Flossmoor website, and shared on social media. The stories were shared with local media sources, and an article was run in the Daily Southtown. Commissioner Mustafa expressed her appreciation for Linda Stanford’s contribution to the project, but she was concerned that the HF Chronicle did not print an article.

C. New Resident Event Planning (Spring 2019)

Commissioners Mustafa presented a few ideas for a New Resident event, and the commission agreed that the library was the best venue. Commissioners Mustafa and Leon-Thompson will meet with the Flossmoor Library Director to make a program plan and select a date. Laura suggested April 13th, when there is a Seed Library Meet and Greet.

D. Opportunities to Encourage Inclusion and Connectivity

1. 2019 Flossmoor Events

Laura shared dates for CRC supported events for 2019. The complete calendar will be ready for the next meeting.

2. Connecting to Flossmoor Businesses

Chairman Cheung and Commissioner Bachus met with representatives of the Flossmoor Business Association, who are looking for assistance in connecting with the Village and other Flossmoor businesses. Laura explained that the FBA receives communications on all events and programs, and are invited to participate. The Village Manager did contact the group in November of 2018 and offered help from the Village staff. The Village Manager and the Mayor will reach out to the FBA again.

VII. CRC Quarterly Newsletter Submission

Laura shared the 2019 Flossmoor Newsletter schedule. The commission will give input in April for the June newsletter.

VIII. Reports

A. Police Liaison Report

Sargent Taylor was not in attendance.

B. Village of Flossmoor Staff Report

Commissioner Parker resigned as of February 26, and Commissioner Bachus is resigning on March 1, 2019. There are presently three vacancies on the commission. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees. The commission application is available on the website, and a commission description and roles of commissioners will be highlighted in the spring Flossmoor newsletter, and an upcoming ENews. Interested candidates should be directed to the application.

Village of Flossmoor staff will participate in Implicit Bias training, conducted by the Anti-Defamation League. The Police Department will have their own training session.

C. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Graham: Reported the Flossmoor History Project is going to the board for budget approval. The plan is to work with a consultant on historical designation certification. Upon approval, the group will do a "request for proposal" call.

Commissioner Leon-Thompson: Reminded Laura about collecting emails from Village vehicle sticker applications for ENews sign up.

Jonnishae Bennett: The HFHS VTV show on MLK Day of Service generated a lot of student interest. She will talk to Dr. Anderson about a student commission liaison recommendation for next year.

XI. New Business

No new business.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Cheung called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Motion: Commissioner Graham; Second: Commissioner Goesel. Motion passed by a voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2019 @ 7pm