



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

WHEATON CITY HALL, 303 W WESLEY STREET, WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
7:00 to 8:30 pm
Gamon Room, Wheaton City Hall

- I. **Call to Order** 7:05 pm Erica, pro-tempore chair, motioned; Marco seconded; unanimously approved.
- II. **Welcome**
- III. **Roll Call**
 - a. Present: Erica Nelson, Rachel Bautista, Laura Peccarelli, Stephanie Henry, Marco Scola, Meg Beasley. Calling in: Rachel Bautista and Saleha Jawaid.
 - b. Councilwoman Erica Bray-Parker, outgoing commissioner Colleen Atwell, and community member Ken Busse.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** Laura motioned; Marco seconded; unanimously approved as presented
- V. **Old Business**
 - a. Women's History Month
 - i. Eleanor Roosevelt program in partnership with the Wheaton Public Library and League of Women Voters drew 101 virtual and in-person participants.
 - ii. We are Women featured the artwork of female artists that was displayed at women-owned businesses in downtown Wheaton. Program grew from 9 businesses and artists to 25.
 - iii. Overall, commission has received positive feedback from artists and businesses and will continue to gauge the program's impact.
 - iv. Women of Wheaton was paused for 2022, but the DuPage County Historical Museum and the League of Women Voters promoted some of the profiles across their respective social media pages.
- VI. **New Business**
 - a. Rachel motioned spending \$200 to purchase and mail thank you gifts (DWA mugs) for artists who participated in the We are Women artist and business program. Erica seconded; approved unanimously.
 - b. Good Citizen's Awards
 - i. All three of the commissioners involved in planning and executing this program have resigned.
 - ii. Remaining volunteer commissioners discussed the idea of postponing Good Citizens Award program for this spring as none of the remaining volunteer commissioners have experience with the details of the program.

- iii. Meg motioned that we pause Good Citizens Awards for spring of 2022; Stephanie seconded; unanimously approved.
- iv. There will be further discussion in future meetings to continue the program in the fall with awards possibly being presented in October.
- c. Recognition of outgoing commissioners
 - i. We recognized Tony Asta, Colleen Atwell, Krista Selvey, and Jen Sever for their years of service to the commission.
 - ii. Mayor Suess sent thank you letters to commissioners
- d. Elections for new chair and secretary positions:
 - i. Chair and secretary positions will be filled at a future meeting as time was running short.
- e. Recap of meeting with Mayor Suess and Councilwoman Suzanne Fitch
 - i. City is assessing the structure and budgets of all boards and commissions.
 - ii. Clarifications regarding what citizens may be recognized were outlined:
 - 1. Government employees including city, fire department, police, and others should not be included so that one person isn't elevated over another for carrying out a designated job;
 - 2. Current political officials or candidates should not be included.
 - iii. Commissioners still seek clarity
 - 1. Want to ensure that all citizens are seen and celebrated and that commission is empowered to develop and carry out programs that engender a sense of belonging and connectedness among the diverse citizens of Wheaton.
 - iv. Non-regulatory commissions will be discussed at April 11, 2022 meeting and WCR commissioners were encouraged to attend.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Colleen Atwell thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve for the past 5 years.
- b. Councilwoman Erica Bray-Parker expressed her appreciation of and support for the commission.
- c. Ken Busse from the Brigade Youth Group attended to learn more about the Good Citizens Award so that he can nominate long-time coordinator Scott Brady for a Good Citizens Award. He was anticipating a public call for nominations; when he did not see them, decided to attend the meeting to learn more. The commission will contact Mr. Busse when the program is reinstated.

VIII. Adjournment 8:50 Erica motioned; Laura seconded; unanimously approved.