

Village of Glencoe Human Relations Forum

Meeting Minutes June 18, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Glencoe Human Relations Forum, held in the Village Hall Conference Room, was called to order at 6:36 p.m. on the 18th day of June, 2014 by Chairperson Wood.

The following members were present:

Reverend David Wood, Chairperson
Scott Pearce, Village Board Representative
Margot Flanagin
Reverend Norris Jackson
John O'Dwyer
Sasha Von Varga
Cary Lewandowski, Ex-officio Member

The following members were absent:

Paula Alexander
Steven Arenson
Rabbi Steven Stark Lowenstein

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2014 MEETING

The minutes of the April 16, 2014 meeting were approved - Motion by Member Flanagin, Second by Member Von Varga, all in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

None - There were no members from the public in attendance.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW HUMAN RELATIONS FORUM MEMBER, SASHA VON VARGA

Mr. Von Varga introduced himself to the group; he is a licensed social worker by trade, and he is excited to contribute to the mission of the Forum. All Forum members likewise introduced themselves to the assembled membership.

5. DEBRIEF ON MEET AND GREET EVENT ON MEMORIAL DAY

Chairperson Wood described the event as a success. While a relatively small amount of citizens stayed after the Memorial Day ceremony, the informal interaction with Village executive staff was worthwhile.

6. FOURTH OF JULY

Member Flanagin initiated discussion regarding Forum sponsorship of a food drive concurrent with the other activities sponsored by the Park

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District. Due to the short time frame for organizing and planning, the membership decided to forego the food drive.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Member Pearce provided a synopsis of the discussion from the April 16, 2014 meeting, identifying the scope and mission of the Forum. Forum members discussed coordinating with the Village Board and their Strategic Plan, which is a work in progress. The Forum will strive to be a pro-active communications arm of the Village government; the focus will be to provide factual information to the community and reduce any conflict that arises from Village initiatives, i.e. the water plant. The Forum will seek to gain public interest, possibly through soliciting citizens to host “heart-to-heart” discussions in their homes; these events will allow residents to meet with Village officials and discuss a variety of issues affecting the community. Members were in agreement that the defined mission is to “seek to create occasions for dialogue around community issues as they arise from Village government initiatives.” The primary objective will be to “create a venue for the Village Board to interact with the community, on a variety of issues driven by both the Village Board and the Community.” Chairperson Wood anticipates utilizing agendas created by himself, President Levin, and Village Manager Kiraly during community discussions. Member Pearce indicated that the renewed mission will help to “re-brand” the Forum.

Member Flanagin sought input regarding the Forum’s participation in the Annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive. She reminded members that Public Safety Community Service Officer Katie Sweeney will no longer be managing the drive. Forum members requested that Member Flanagin seek outside sponsorship for the drive, as the Forum will no longer sponsor such an event in light of the renewed mission as described previously.

Chairperson Wood suggested that the next Forum meeting be scheduled in September, unless pressing business requires a meeting in the interim; the members agreed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. - Motion by Member Pearce, Second by Member O’Dwyer, all in favor.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday September 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.