



MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
GLENCOE COMMUNITY RELATIONS FORUM

Virtual Meeting
July 22, 2020 – 5 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chair Clark explained the basis for conducting a virtual public meeting in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The meeting began at 5 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Community Relations Forum		
Dipti Clark	Chair	Present
Martin Elisco	Member	Absent
Margot Flanagan	Member	Present
Rev. Dwayne Gary	Member	Present, arrived at 5:06 p.m.
Gary Ruben	Member	Present
Maureen Valvassori	Member	Present
Robert Young	Member	Present
Village Staff		
Cary Lewandowski	Public Safety Director	Present
Sharon Tanner	Assistant Village Manager	Present

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 8, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Member Young made a motion, seconded by Member Valvassori to approve the meeting minutes of July 8, 2020. The motion was approved with the following vote:

Aye – Clark, Flanagan, Gary, Ruben, Valvassori, Young (5)

Nay – None (0)

Absent – Elisco, Gary (2)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (ON TOPICS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Chair Clark invited members of the public to comment on matters not on the agenda and asked Assistant Village Manager Tanner to read any comments that were submitted by e-mail in advance of the meeting. There were no public comments and no comments submitted prior to the meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES ON RACISM, SOCIAL EQUITY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND DEVELOPMENT OF FORUM GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

Chair Clark asked the Forum to discuss development of action items and goals, and suggested that the Forum form subcommittees of two members to begin working on contacting community organizations that may wish to work with the Forum. Member Flanagin agreed with this recommendation and commented that it would be good for the Forum to have a broader reach and report back to the entire Forum. Continuing the conversation about subcommittees, Chair Clark suggested that subcommittees could be engaged in planning events or programs, as well as community outreach and engagement.

Member Young said that whatever the Forum does, it would be good to reach out as soon as possible and noted that the most recent chalking in the downtown and commended Public Safety Officers who were engaged. Member Young said that the Forum needs to reach out to the community and communicate. Chair Clark suggested that Forum members could be present in the community as an opportunity to meet people and invite them to Forum meetings. Member Flanagin described prior community engagement efforts of the Forum and whether the Forum could hold virtual engagement events.

Member Ruben suggested that following contacts to community organizations, that the Forum could schedule meetings on specific topics or issues to discuss that could be of interest to community organizations. He hoped that if the Forum can get the word out to organizations with a planned meeting topic, that more of the public will engage.

Chair Clark asked Forum members to share ideas for potential action items for the Forum to discuss. Member Valvassori commented that there is a Zoom meeting planned as an outgrowth of the walk in Winnetka, and asked Rev. Gary whether there could be a follow-up discussion or event after the car caravan rally. Rev. Gary commented that the Glencoe Clergy Association planned two follow-up initiatives after the car caravan and shared that members of the clergy association met with Village Manager Phil Kiraly and Public Safety Director Cary Lewandowski. Rev. Gary shared that the second initiative planned by the Clergy Association is a community book reading event to read *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. The Clergy Association will host a panel discussion on August 27 at 7 p.m., open to the community. He shared that other initiatives planned by the clergy association relates to anti-racism in the community and to encourage individuals to vote, while not encouraging voting for any specific candidates or political party.

Chair Clark asked for the Forum's input on forming subcommittees and the Forum members agreed with doing so.

Chair Clark asked Assistant Village Manager Tanner to provide an overview of the Village's perspective on chalking. Assistant Village Manager Tanner shared that at the July 16 Village Board meeting, Village President Levin shared information about the Village's practice not to remove chalk generally and that the Village does not consider it graffiti, largely due to its temporary nature. She shared that President Levin also encouraged people to participate in dialogue, such as dialogues with the Forum, and made the clear statement that hate has no home in Glencoe and racism, religious discrimination and the unequal treatment of people are important issues for dialogue. Member Ruben added that President Levin will likely share an additional message with the community to reiterate this message and encourage people to engage in dialogue through the Forum or other forums with which individuals may be affiliated, to speak with each other. Chair Clark added that this goes back to the Forum's goal of being available and start the dialogue.

Member Young encouraged Forum members to have a sense of urgency and to be present in the community to listen to what is being said. Rev. Gary added that as Forum members listen to what is said, it is important to listen to all messages and pay attention to how they approach others. Chair Clark suggested that members of the Forum could be present in the downtown to ask people how the Forum can help. Rev. Gary added that there should be dialogue with both individuals who are chalking and others who approach the individual chalking, and hear both stories and understand without being one-sided.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Chair Clark asked if there were any additional public comments. Assistant Village Manager Tanner stated that there was a comment previously submitted by Rev. Scott Himel and read the comment. In his comment, Rev. Himel commented that following the Forum's last meeting and dialogue about potentially engaging professional facilitators, he wished to share information about a professional facilitation organization, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, which works with church and non-church organizations.

Mr. Michael Halberstam from Writers Theater shared that he has heard a theme of people feeling unwelcome, not just by Public Safety but in businesses or walking down the street. He shared that if confrontations veer toward racism, white people should step in to help mitigate. Chair Clark added to Mr. Halberstam's comment that all people should be advocates for each other.

VI. ADJOURN

Member Young made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 p.m., seconded by Member Ruben. Said motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Clark, Flanagan, Gary, Ruben, Valvassori, Young (6)

Nay - None

Absent - Elisco (1)