



MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
GLENCOE COMMUNITY RELATIONS FORUM

Virtual Meeting
August 19, 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. Assistant Village Manager Sharon Tanner was physically present at the Village Hall.

The meeting began at 5:05 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
Gary Ruben	Member	Present
Maureen Valvassori	Member	Present, arrived at 5:13 p.m.
Robert Young	Member	Present
Village Staff		
Cary Lewandowski	Public Safety Director	Present
Sharon Tanner	Assistant Village Manager	Present

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 5, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Member Ruben made a motion, seconded by Rev. Gary to approve the meeting minutes of August 5, 2020 with the correction of a scrivener's error. The motion was approved with the following vote:

Aye - Clark, Flanagan, Gary, Ruben, Young (5)

Nay - None (0)

Absent - Elisco, Valvassori (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.

Joshua Glucksman, Hannah Sussman and Eva Roytburg addressed the Community Relations Forum and shared a video that showed interactions between individuals chalking messages on sidewalks and members of the public. Ms. Sussman stated that the video compilation is not representative of the whole chalking experience and noted disturbing responses and messages of support. She said that creating an environment in which conversations can ensure that hate does not find a home in Glencoe. Mr. Glucksman stated chalking is almost as much a point of contention as the Black Lives Matter message itself and agreed with President Levin's message that while the means of delivering the message becomes the focus of the discussion, disagreement about the medium of chalk seems to inhibit broader conversations about racism and social equity. In some cases, the conversations are about the message and are about the medium and shared that members of the public have approached individuals chalking and have started conversations. He said it is impossible to make this as effective as possible with the Village's stance of neither encouraging nor discouraging the use of chalk and said that having the Village's support is everything to making social change. Ms. Roytburg said she is a senior at New Trier High School and the founder of Chalk for Justice North Shore, which was created in early June to start conversations about racial justice in Glencoe and other suburbs. Ms. Roytburg shared some of the statements made and actions taken toward her by members of the public who have been chalking, such as being yelled at, being told she is stupid for sharing her message with the medium, saying she would be defenseless without police, calling her a privileged white girl, adults remove chalk from her and accost her without being provoked. She said that chalking incenses hateful members of the community and she has experienced productive conversations with passersby. She said that racism and racist people exist in Glencoe and are aggressive. She asked the Forum and the Village Board to issue a statement denouncing these actions and expressing support for chalk as an effective and condoned medium for change.

Chair Clark thanked Ms. Sussman, Mr. Glucksman and Ms. Roytburg for bringing this to the Forum's attention and that bullying has no space here. She said that the Forum would like to have further conversations with Ms. Sussman, Mr. Glucksman and Ms. Roytburg. Ms. Sussman said that in order to have productive conversations with the community, which is their goal, it would be helpful to have common baselines such as whether chalk is appropriate and has value, and conversations about whether chalk is bad avoids the deep-rooted issues. She said they would like the Village Board to come to a more progressive perspective that chalking is an effective means to start the conversation. Mr. Glucksman shared that productive conversations are happening and that he has cited President Levin's July 28 message that clarified that chalking is allowed, but they are still seeing opposition and requested that the Village make a statement about chalk a means of communicating social change. Chair Clark stated that she is hearing that Ms. Sussman, Mr. Glucksman and Ms. Roytburg say that chalking is allowed and the Village supports it, and the goal for chalking was to get the attention of the community to build dialogue.

Member Ruben thanked Ms. Sussman, Mr. Glucksman and Ms. Roytburg for coming to the meeting and sharing their message. He noted that the Village President has made explicit statements discouraging any form of hatred. He commented that when there is a request made of the Village to take a position about whether a medium is good, compared to stating that a medium is legal, the medium becomes mixed with the message. Member Ruben said that raising awareness about institutional racism is good and part of the Forum's mission, noted that chalking is a very peaceful way of expressing ideas and the notion that wanting

to have conversations in the community is something that the Forum encourages. Ms. Roytburg said she believes the Village Board has already taken the stance that chalking has inhibited conversations about racism and social equity and has taken a discouraging stance. She said that she would like the Village Board to support chalking and clarify that people have the right to chalk. Member Ruben commented that any medium has positive and negative aspects and that there are some people who focus on the medium rather than the message. He said he would take this back and thanked Ms. Sussman, Mr. Glucksman and Ms. Roytburg.

Chair Clark moved to the next individual for public comment, Olivier. He said he believes it is important to talk about the message that is being written in a loud way. When it comes to supporting chalkers or the message, it needs to be visible and Glencoe needs to show that people who are against Black Lives Matter cause disruptions and take chalk out of people's hands. He said that people are violent here and he was previously filmed from afar, photographed and had the police called on him multiple times. He said that people in Glencoe treat the police like a death squad by calling 911 on people who are minding their own business. He said that Glencoe needs to put their foot down and say people cannot treat police like their death squad and that Black peoples' lives matter to Glencoe. He said what is happening is dangerous. He shared that a Black woman in Northfield was assaulted by a white man at a market. He said something needs to be done and Glencoe needs to put it foot down and let people know that is not OK. He said there is a movement going on to make the world a little better. He said putting one's hands on another person is not OK and should not be accepted. Chair Clark thanked Olivier and said that it is impactful to hear from him. She said that one of the Forum's goals is to work on how best to reach the community, engage with the community and facilitate conversations. She said that a primary goal of the Forum is how to increase community awareness and involvement with the Forum. Addressing the complexity of language, Member Ruben commented that the phrase "Black Lives Matter" may cause some to think about institutional racism and the need to do something positive to make change, and others may think of the organization by the same name and may disagree with some of its policies while still favoring trying to address racism in this country. He said that when people can have a discussion, it is more effective to support anti-racist changes that need to be made.

Ms. Roytburg said that there is violence toward chalkers and said that she would like the Village Board to make a statement denouncing violence toward chalkers.

IV. PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Moving to the Forum's goals and future meetings with community organizations and individuals, Chair Clark asked for the Forum's input regarding how to engage with community organizations. Member Flanagan said that it would be helpful to have a set of questions or format for conversations with other organizations and shared examples of questions that she would like to ask. Chair Clark asked Forum members to send questions to Assistant Village Manager Tanner to compile and share with the Forum. Chair Clark asked the Forum to consider what message the Forum would like to give to other organizations to be passed on to the community and what the next step should be. Member Flanagan said she believes it is helpful to invite as many people as possible to attend Forum meetings. She said that she liked including the Forum's goal of supporting discussion on racism, social equity and community building and suggested asking other organizations about their efforts in these areas. Chair Clark suggested that the Forum focus on its outreach

to community organizations in Glencoe and asking them how they plan on addressing racism, social equity and community building. Member Young shared that he has reached out to some clergy members in the community to introduce the Forum and believes that it is important to emphasize communication. Chair Clark summarized that the Forum's next steps will be to build a questionnaire to facilitate dialogue with community organizations.

V. DISCUSSION REGARDING ALLYSHIP

The discussion regarding allyship was deferred.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ACTION ITEMS AND GOALS

Moving to discussion regarding future action items and goals, Chair Clark suggested that the Forum could consider hosting virtual coffee events with the community to discuss opportunities to make Glencoe a welcoming place. Members of the Forum supported moving forward with planning virtual coffee events.

Member Valvassori said that the City of Evanston is having a series of events with the community that have been well attended. Assistant Village Manager Tanner offered to contact nearby municipalities to learn about their community's advisory commissions/boards that are similar to the Forum.

Member Flanagin shared that members of the community may be aware of the Forum by its prior name of the Human Relations Forum and that the Forum previously mailed postcards to all households in the community to invite them to Forum meetings. Member Ruben said that it is important to get the word out that people should not harass chalkers and that Member Valvassori said the passion and perseverance of the chalkers is impressive and thanked them.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VIII. ADJOURN

Rev. Gary made a motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Member Valvassori. Said motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Clark, Gary, Ruben, Valvassori (4)

Nay - None

Absent - Elisco, Young (2)