



MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
GLENCOE COMMUNITY RELATIONS FORUM

Virtual Meeting
January 13, 2021 – 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 5:06 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
Annice Moses	Member	Present
Amy Mysel	Member	Present
Gary Ruben	Member	Present
Hilary Scott	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 DECEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Member Ruben made a motion, seconded by Member Young to approve the meeting minutes of December 9, 2020. The motion was approved with the following vote:

Aye – Clark, Flanagan, Gary, Moses, Mysel, Ruben, Scott, Valvassori, Young (9)
Nay – None (0)
Absent – Elisco (1)

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.

Vivek Mali addressed the Forum regarding events that took place last week at the U.S. Capitol and whether there will be a statement made by the Village, denouncing the violence that took place, denouncing white supremacy and anti-Semitism. He also commented that news reports have indicated that retired military personnel and law enforcement personnel participated in the protests. He asked whether the Village will make a statement regarding whether any Village law enforcement personnel participated in the protests in Washington, D.C. and whether the Village's law enforcement denounces white supremacy and anti-Semitism. Chair Clark thanked Mr. Mali for his comment and participation in the Forum's meetings. She stated that Mr. Mali's comments are very time appropriate. Assistant Village Manager Tanner said that she will share Mr. Mali's comments with the Village's leadership. Public Safety Director Lewandowski added that the request for a statement is best directed to the Village Board. Member Ruben, the Village Board liaison to the Forum, said that he would share the nature of the request with the Village Board. Member Young said he believes it is a reasonable request. Rev. Gary thanked Mr. Mali for joining the meeting and sharing his thoughts and concerns.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY RELATIONS FORUM INITIATIVES

- a. Conversations with Community Organizations**
- b. Future Programs and Initiatives**

Rather than discussing the subcommittee updates, Chair Clark commented that the events that have taken place in the country over the last week and a half have been difficult and distressing. She emphasized the importance of the Forum being sensitive, empathetic and supportive of the community. She encouraged Forum members to lend a hand to neighbors, and commented that the community can be very respectful and supportive of each other. Member Young said that this seems like a time for the Forum to step up and encouraged the Forum to move forward with its work.

Chair Clark asked whether the Forum is prepared to address questions, if they are raised, about events happening and how the Forum is there to help. Forum members discussed whether it might make a recommendation to the Village Board to make a statement regarding the recent events in Washington D.C.

Member Mysel commented that a lot of the issues in current events relate to the Forum's work. She agreed that it is important for the Forum to move forward with its work. Member Flanagan commented that the Village's Welcoming and Inclusive Community Pledge reflects many of the ideas the Forum is discussing and the Village's position. Member Mysel added that the pledge does not specifically state that there will be zero tolerance and suggested that an additional statement could be made. Chair Clark suggested that the pledge could be referenced in a statement and that the Village could bring a sense of community through its statement to be supportive and empathetic toward each other.

Member Moses shared that she became involved in the Forum because she wants the community to be accessible to all who want to be here. She believes that what the Forum says needs to be salient and reflect current events.

Rev. Gary shared that he feels the Village owes the community a statement and that a resident has brought up a concern that is shared by the community. He stated that he believes the Forum's role is to share the message after it comes from the leadership of the

Village. He believes it is important for the Village to make a statement that explains the Village's stance, particularly since the current events are new.

Member Valvassori added that the Village's statement should emphasize what it is here to do, to build community and value all members of the community. Member Young commented that education is important and discussed the need for individuals to speak up if they see an act of prejudice.

Member Flanagin asked how much the Village can codify its values and reiterate that it enforces anti-discrimination laws.

Chair Clark summarized that the consensus of the Forum is for it to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding a statement.

Member Valvassori suggested that the Forum share the Welcoming and Inclusive Community Pledge with community organizations to request that they share it with their constituents. She also suggested that the Forum temporarily table some of their current initiatives to focus on emphasizing the Welcoming and Inclusive Community Pledge. Member Moses suggested that the Forum follow up with Mr. Mali to thank him for his feedback. Rev. Gary will follow up with Mr. Mali.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Clark asked Forum members if there is a specific topic that anyone would like to discuss at the next meeting, in addition to any follow up from today's discussion. Chair Clark commented that she has been in contact with Barney Gallagher, chair of the Village's Sustainability Task Force, and his request to discuss the Sustainability Task Force's work on Ecodistricts. The Forum agreed with having Mr. Gallagher present at the February 17 meeting.

Rev. Gary shared that St. Paul AME Church is holding its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration on Sunday, January 17 at 10 a.m. It will be held virtually on St. Paul's Facebook page. He also shared that the Glencoe Clergy Association is having a virtual community conversation with Richard Rothstein, the author of *The Color of Law*, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 18. Registration is required at www.nsci.org/coloroflaw.

VII. ADJOURN

Member Young made a motion to adjourn at 6:56 p.m., seconded by Rev. Gary. Said motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Clark, Flanagin, Gary, Moses, Mysel, Ruben, Scott, Valvassori, Young (9)

Nay - None (0)

Absent - Elisco (1)