

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Village Hall Rm 215 @ 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order 7:07 p.m. Meeting was held in room 215
Staff present: Cassandra Adediran, Dr. Danielle Walker.

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Comms. Rodriguez, Sakiyama, Quinn-Pasin, Terretta, Bencola,

ABSENT: Comms. Puentes, Coats, Griffin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Comm Sakiyama and seconded by Comm Terretta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes from April 13 meeting was made by Comm. Quinn-Pasin and seconded by Comm. Terretta. Motion to approve the minutes from September 20 meeting was made by Comm. Terretta and seconded by Comm. Quinn-Pasin.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss the grant program was made by Comm. Puentes and seconded by Comm. Bencola.

Trustee Peart has resigned effective 12/5/2023 due to having a new job. Comms Puentes and Griffins are both not feeling well. Comm. Coats was appointed to the CRC but he has not been present. Chairperson Rodriguez will continue to reach out to find out his status.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review scores of the top five applications and eligibility criteria for 2024 CRC Mini-Grant.

Chair Rodriguez pointed out that a few of the groups that applied for the 2024 grant have turned in their reports from last year and there are some groups from last year who have not turned in their reports. There are three grant applicants who are automatically disqualified. Chair Rodriguez requested clarity [from staff liaison Dr. Walker] on voting on the mini-grant awardees as an opportune time to discuss the other grant applicants since this was not directly listed on the agenda. Chair Rodriguez explained that the scores for the top five applicants is averaged because of recusal of CRC members from certain applications and they are as follows in order of highest to lowest:

- ROYAL
- TUTORTASTIC
- RACE CONSCIOUS DIALOGUES/ KINFOLK COLLAB
- DIA DE LA MUERTAS

The CRC made the following review of the top five grant applicants:

ROYAL: A discussion centered around whether or not ROYAL should be awarded a grant in 2024 due to Royal's last year report and the video which Royal put out not matching up to what they say they would do in the proposal. Chair Rodriguez read ROYAL's application from last year, to the CRC members. Comm. Terretta inquired as to whether or not the portion of funding given to ROYAL in 2023 supports the video production presented as part of ROYAL's report. Comm. Terretta also inquired about the CRC's taking on a more expansive interpretations of what equity is as part of equity is giving people what they need to succeed. Comm Bencola suggested that perhaps ROYAL used the funds as stipends for transportation costs and other things. The CRC members were reminded to take on task with the agenda by reviewing the top five applicants and then continue discussing once the commission is ready to allocate funds.

TUTORTASTIC: Tutortastic requested \$2026, a little over the \$2000 but that should not make them ineligible. No red flags were seen.

RACE CONSCIOUS DIALOGUES: RCD requested \$1500. Commissioners Terretta and Puentes recused themselves from the scoring. There were no concerns and no questions about what RCD does.

KINFOLK COLLAB: Kinfolk Collab requested \$2000 of a \$24000 budget for one month of rent. Comm. Terretta inserted that Kinfolk Collab has an annual budget but the commissioner who followed up with them is not present to give more details. Comm. Bencola offered that Kinfolk is currently using the space to house asylum seekers. The CRC agreed that Kinfolk is eligible.

DIA DE LA MUERTAS: DDM requested \$2500+. However, their event has already taken place from 10/28/2023 – 11/4/2023 and cannot be retroactively granted. Commission members sought clarity on the opportunity for DDM to tell the commission if they planned [the event] for next year and if DDM says yes, can they amend their application? Dr. Walker explained that the applicant can be asked to make an amendment for next year and that an email can be sent to the CRC members and DEI, giving them a chance to make the change.

2. Vote on 2024 CRC Mini-Grant Awardees for up to \$2000

Questions arose about not funding ROYAL and how it relates to the decisions of what other grant applicants should or should not be funded. Chair Rodriguez offered that the applicants in the top five who were named not to be funded, should not be considered at all. Partial funding would be allowed if funds were still available. It was noted that the top five applicants all do the same type of work and the question was posed if the CRC wants to fund different types of group and should their reach dip into other areas? Per Chair JR, the top five are getting the first consideration but the CRC is considering other things. Comm. Quinn-Pasin suggested that the CRC looks at the groups who are working with similar populations. The CRC members were asked if ROYAL should be deemed ineligible for 2024 based on their 2023 End of Year report? All commissioners agreed that ROYAL should not be deem ineligible for 2024 based on their 2023 End of Year report. Comm. Sakiyama advised the commission to be careful for considerations on eligible or ineligible about ROYAL because the Board has expressed concerns about ROYAL's previous activities and the staff saying no funding because of their behavior.

Comm. Terretta asked if the commission could go back to ROYAL for clarification just as they will do for DDM? Other commissioners supported the question and debated the issues/concerns about how to deal with applicants who did not satisfy the criteria of the grant applications. Per Chair Rodriguez, the CRC should be able to get confirmation or clarification of time lines for funding. Also, Chair Rodriguez related that the process for the grants has been made harder.

Dr. Walker inserted that when applicants leave off information such as dates, it puts the applicant in a place where they are not being held accountable for performing their projects within the time frame and it might result in them having to return funds. Chair Rodriguez believes it is becoming less equitable by putting so much on the applicants.

The Commission agreed that members will review the applicants who are missing details on their applications and get the information that is needed. The CRC is not considering requests over \$2000. Comm. Terretta will reach out and prepare information for next meeting's vote on 12/20/2023.

Motion to table the vote on item #2 was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Terretta.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Sakiyama and seconded by Comm. Quinn. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.