



**MEETING MINUTES  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024, 7:00 P.M.  
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

**B. Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Lott (arrived late), Miller, Roman, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song

Also present: Clerk Waters

**C. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Roman seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**D. Minutes Approval**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 meeting as amended; Commissioner Roman seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Commissioners Kill and Miller abstained.

**E. Public Comment**

Kenneth Floody: If the emeritus position was limited to one year, it would permit the emeritus member to rejoin the committee as a full voting member, while opening up the emeritus position for another committee member that has completed their second term.

Commissioner Elling shared an example of a commissioner that made a public comment because he said he had no other way to put the Item on the Agenda.

**F. New Business**

A. A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be Considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:

- i. Daniel Gillen – Plan Commission
- ii. Eric Elshtain – Plan Commission
- iii. Andrea Krieg – Housing Programs Advisory Committee (HPAC)
- iv. James Gates – Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC)
- v. Dirk De Lor – Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC)
- vi. Joe Ruesewald – Transportation Commission

Commissioner Miller moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Dan Gillen is a resident of four years and an architect by profession. He is finishing the design of the Thompson Center and has done urban planning for many years. He wants to get involved in Oak Park because he cares about the

community. A lot of discussions around planning revolve around height, density, and traffic. He is interested in how we make the new projects a better community. He would like to learn about the process and see if he can help iron out the barbs. His second choice would be the Historic Preservation Commission.

Eric Elshtain is a longtime resident and homemaker and retired poetry teacher of 30 years. He is a Taekwondo instructor and poet in residence at the Field Museum. He has experiences adding to his own house and the intersections between the objectivity of building codes and the aesthetics of living in a historic district. He does not have a second choice at this time though he would consider serving elsewhere if the Plan Commission is not available.

Andrea Krieg is a resident of seven years. She is a criminal justice professor at Elmhurst University and her work is related to residential segregation and crime. She considered Plan Commission, Housing Programs, and CPOC. The best way to deal with crime is through social programming and supports and not through law enforcement. The way to solve the issue is to fund schools and housing programs instead of law enforcement and prisons. She clarified she is not an abolitionist and believes that society needs to balance our funding.

Jim Gates is a 49-year resident and retired from teaching and consulting. He volunteers at the Hines VA Hospital inpatient pharmacy and is very active at St. Giles Church. He was pleased with the way the CPOC meeting he observed was conducted by Chair Barnhart. Commissioners did their homework and they stressed the importance of data-based decisions. He would bring a research-based perspective and understands committee and board-level service and what is and is not in their purview. At this time, he only wants to be considered for CPOC.

Dirk De Lor has been a resident since 2015 and is a lifelong public servant. He has a unique background as a firefighter who later became a prosecutor on Chicago's west side. He worked in the Inspector General's Office for the State of Illinois doing investigations for fraud waste and abuse and ethics trainings. He worked for the Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office where he investigated fraud against the government and serves as the affirmative civil rights coordinator. He said he would be willing to serve where he is most useful.

Joe Ruesewald is a resident of three years. He is a project manager in the consulting world, mostly software implementation. He has commuted to work via train, bus, or bicycle for the past 15 years and is a strong advocate for it. There is a lot we can do as a community to improve access for everyone and make sure it is equitable. He thinks Vision Zero is a generational opportunity for Oak Park to make some positive changes on how we approach transportation.

#### B. Review of Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report

Chair Kolar reported that Mas Takiguchi is the new chair for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Christina Welter is the new chair for the Board of Health. Chair Elling inquired about the status of Tim Kelly. Chair Kolar recommended emailing the Village President.

C. Review of Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee Appointments at Regular Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 11, 2024

Clerk Waters reported that Barbara Cimaglio was extended for one year for Aging in Communities. Curtis Lott was extended for one year for Citizen Involvement Commission. Camile Lindsay Kumi was appointed to CPOC. Marcia DiVerde was appointed to the Farmers' Market Commission.

D. Discussion of the Proposal for a Motion to the Village of Oak Park's Citizen Involvement Commission to Enable Every Volunteer Board, Commission, and Committee to Have the Option to Retain Previous Members as an Emeritus Member

Commissioner Elling presented the Item. The commissioners discussed and will vote at a future meeting.

**G. CIC Liaison Reports**

There were no reports.

**H. Staff Liaison Report**

A. Outstanding applicants to date.

Clerk Waters said the Village is pausing recruitment on the Community Design Commission (CDC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to determine the future of those two commissions. Paul Ribera is pending for HPAC and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Steven Brown is pending for Plan Commission and ZBA. Derek Eder is pending for Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC). Commission flyers will be updated and printed for *Day In Our Village*.

**I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment Recommendations of Volunteers to the Village of Oak Park's Advisory commissions, Committees and Boards.**

Commissioner Roman motioned; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 9:04 P.M.

**J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 9:26 P.M.

**K. New Business**

A. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Daniel Gillen to the Plan Commission

Commissioner Elling motioned to amend the motion to include the Historic Preservation Commission;

Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll

call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Eric Elshtain to the Plan Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned to amend the motion to include the Community Relations Commission; Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Nays: Elling

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Andrea Krieg the Housing Programs Advisory Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Kill seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of James Gates to the Citizen Police Oversight Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga

Nays: Elling and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- E. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Dirk De Lor to the Citizen Police Oversight Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned to amend the motion to include the Community Relations Commission; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- F. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Joe Ruesewald to the Transportation Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- G. Discussion on Best Practices – Commission Support | presented by Commissioner Wesonga. Discussion to Coordinate Volunteer Time Slots for Day In Our Village, Go Green Days (Farmers’ Market), and Thursday Night Out.

Chair Kolar postponed this discussion to the next meeting. Commissioners will participate at a future Farmers’ Market. Chair Kolar requested commissioners send their availability for June, July, and August for Thursday Night Out. Chair Kolar will contact commissioners regarding their availability for Day In Our Village on June 2. Clerk Waters has t-shirts.

- H. Discussion on Agenda Topics for Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meeting(s)

Commissioner Elling requested to revisit the emeritus discussion and start thinking about the volunteer appreciation event.

**L. Old Business**

- A. Calendarization of Activities we discussed at our working meeting

There was no discussion.

- B. Motion to Approve Commission Liaison report

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Kill seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**M. Adjourn**

Commissioner Kill moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Hansen