



**MEETING MINUTES  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, 7:00 P.M.  
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

**B. Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Eid (joined late), Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller (left early), Roman, Song, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioner Wesonga

Also present: Clerk Waters

**C. Agenda Approval**

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

**D. Minutes Approval**

A. Commissioner Song moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024 meeting; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Aye: Commissioners Kill, Lott, Miller, Roman, Song, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Wesonga

Abstain: Commissioner Elling

B. Commissioner Lott moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2024 meeting; Commissioner Miller seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Aye: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Roman, Song, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Wesonga

Abstain: Commissioner

**E. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**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. Holly Bruce – Plan Commission

ii. Sarah Torres – Housing Programs Advisory Committee

iii. Frank Heitzman – Environment & Energy Commission

iv. Kathleen O'Dell – Environment & Energy Commission

v. Mark Ruda – Zoning Board of Appeals and Housing Programs Advisory Committee

vi. Richard Katz – Building Codes Advisory Commission and Environment & Energy Commission

Commissioner Miller moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. No voice vote was taken.

**Holly Bruce** is a five-year resident and has been looking for an opportunity to volunteer in the community. She appreciates the community, diversity, and architecture. She has an extensive background in architecture, planning consulting, landscape architecture, project management, and working for architecture firms. She has previously brought clients before the Plan Commission seeking exceptions and thinks it is an opportunity to educate the public more.

**Sarah Torres** is a 12-year resident who worked as a planning consultant and architect for 12 years before focusing solely on affordable housing and finance. She is interested to take what she has learned there and the challenges she has seen from developers and help inform and facilitate some of this development. She is concerned this town is becoming more and more exclusive each year without more and higher density

affordable housing.

**Frank Heitzman** is an architect and has had an office in downtown Oak Park for 40 years. He has taught at Triton College for 25 years teaching students how to design sustainable buildings. He is familiar with the agenda of the Environment & Energy Commission and feels he would be a good fit for the commission. He thinks Oak Park is going in the right direction and the question is how can we spend the money we need to in order to achieve our goals.

**Kathleen O'Dell** is a 15-year resident and the associate provost at Dominican University. She is an economist by training and teaches economics classes and how business can and cannot be a force for good for sustainability. She spent a year in Denmark studying the implementation of their wind energy program. She appreciates the importance of community-level work that makes these things possible. She composts and grows native plants and food in her garden.

**Mark Ruda** is a 5-year resident. He served on the McHenry County Housing Authority and Community Development Block Grant Commission. He has been a licensed realtor for 38 years. The Housing Programs Advisory Committee is his preferred choice and especially intrigues him because of the housing stock dilemma here in Oak Park. He suggested repurposing some of the unused office buildings in downtown Oak Park for affordable housing.

**Richard Katz** is a 41-year resident. He received the Cavalcade of Pride Award from the Village. He is an architect and attorney and practiced environmental, real estate, and construction law. He served on the 2006 Barrie Park Commission which was the largest urban environmental clean-up in the U.S. at the time. He served on the Design Commission for 2+ terms. He recommended continuing to replace lead feeder pipes and implementing a noise ordinance for loud vehicles.

B. Review of Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report – September 3, 2024  
Chair Kolar said the Community Design Commission is still on hold. The Environment & Energy Commission (EEC) has three openings and three candidates were interviewed this evening. Clerk Waters said a commissioner is rolling off the Zoning Board of Appeals. Commissioner Lott said he will get in touch with the new Community Relations Commission (CRC) chair.

C. Review of Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee Appointments at Regular Board of Trustees Meeting(s) – August 27, 2024  
Chair Kolar reported said the new CRC chair has been appointed. EEC, Historic Preservation Commission, and Citizens Police Involvement Commission were renewals.

D. A Motion to the Village Board to Recommend to the Village Board a Proposal 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 Song moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:  
Aye: Eid, Elling, Lott, Roman, Song  
Nay: Kill, Miller, and Chair Kolar  
Absent: Wesonga

Commissioner Elling explained that if someone's terms have expired, they can get an extended term of one year and then they have to take a 12-month leave before being eligible to return to that same commission. If approved as emeritus, they would get reappointed for a full term without the ability to vote or be counted towards quorum. Commissioner Miller said the definition of emeritus is when you have worked somewhere for a long time and you are granted a lifetime honorarium, such as a professor.

Commissioner Kill expressed concern with the recommendation because the intent of the term limits is to promote diversity and new voices on the commissions. Commissioner Song noted the importance for some commissions to have technical expertise and institutional knowledge. Commissioner Elling noted that when a commissioner becomes emeritus, a vacancy would still occur. Commissioner Eid said there is still influence and power even if an emeritus member does not vote.

Chair Kolar clarified that the language is for one term for all commissions. Next steps are for Clerk Waters to send the recommendation to Manager Jackson and President Scaman.

#### **G. CIC Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Elling inquired about the fillable form. Chair Kolar will check with Commissioner Wesonga.

#### **H. Staff Liaison Report**

There was no report.

#### **I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session**

5 ILCS 120/(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, and to Review the 2024 Executive Session Minutes of the Citizen Involvement Commission

Commissioner Elling moved to enter into executive session; Commissioner Song seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Miller, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

Absent: Wesonga

#### **J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 9:10 P.M.

#### **K. New Business Continued**

##### **A. A Motion to Approve the February–July 2024 Executive Session Minutes**

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

Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

Absent: Miller, Wesonga

##### **B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Holly Bruce to the Plan Commission.**

Commissioner Elling moved; Commissioner Song seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Aye: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

Absent: Miller, Wesonga

Abstain: Eid

##### **C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Sarah Torres to the Housing Programs Advisory Committee.**

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

Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar

Absent: Miller, Wesonga

##### **D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Frank Heitzman to the Environment & Energy Commission.**

Commissioner Roman moved; Commissioner Elling seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was

approved. The roll call vote was as follows:  
Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar  
Absent: Miller, Wesonga

- E. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Kathleen O'Dell to the Environment & Energy Commission.

Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Elling seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call vote was as follows:  
Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar  
Absent: Miller, Wesonga

- F. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Mark Ruda to the Zoning Board of Appeals and/or Housing Programs Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Song moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call vote was as follows:  
Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar  
Absent: Miller, Wesonga

- G. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Richard Katz to the Building Codes Advisory Commission and Environment Energy Commission.

Commissioner Elling moved; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call vote was as follows:  
Aye: Eid, Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Song and Chair Kolar  
Absent: Miller, Wesonga

- H. Discuss the 2024 Achievements, and 2025 Work Plan goals

This item was tabled.

- I. Discuss the Volunteer Recognition Event scheduled to take place in November 2024

Chair Kolar reported that he is talking to the Park District to determine availability and rental costs for Cheney Mansion or Pleasant Home. Our event budget is \$5,000. The tentative event date is November 14, 2024.

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

Commissioner Elling recommended discussing attendance and best practices from the August agenda.

#### **L. Old Business**

- A. Confirm October 2nd Meeting Date, or choose alternate meeting date

The commissioners present indicated they are available October 2.

- B. Discuss Calendarization of Activities

There was no discussion.

- C. Reminder to Commission Members to Send Clerk Waters the Exit Interview Feedback

Chair Kolar reminded the commissioners to send their feedback to Clerk Waters.

#### **M. Adjourn**

Commissioner Song moved to adjourn; Commissioner Roman seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deputy Clerk Hansen