Community Relations Commission
Meeting Summary
January 14, 2016

Persons in attendance:

Jenny Lee – Chair
Trustee John C. Jekot
Tony Hollenback – Director of Family Services
Dennis McEnerney – Chief of Police
Dan Ryan
Jason Trunco
Cathy Spadoni – Secretary
Cammy Fortuna – Secretary

Carolyn Drblik – Member of the Public
Louella Preston – Member of the Public

Persons absent:

Steve Vinezeano – Village Manager
Joe Kuffel
Mary Maursek

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Lee called the regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission to order at 5:37 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room – Village of Niles Municipal Building as a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Trunco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ryan, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular meeting. On voice vote, all concurred.

III. Reported Citizen Comments / Complaints

a. Police or other Village Departments
Police Chief McEnerney and Secretary Spadoni reported that no complaints were received by the Police Department or other Village Departments.

b. Telephone / Email Hotlines
Secretary Spadoni reported that no complaints were received via the telephone or email hot hotlines.

c. Commissioners
Commissioner Trunco reported that there was inappropriate behavior at A's bar. The Niles Police Department and The Niles Assistant Liquor Commissioner will follow up with an inspection of the business.
Commissioner Ryan reported that he had been questioned about the Gun Ordinance - this ordinance is still in litigation.

IV. Old Business

a. Letter to Realtors
Commissioner Lee reported that letters were sent to all of the realtors on the current list. Copies of the fair housing guide were included.

V. New Business

a. Focus Areas for 2016
Commissioner Ryan would like to have some type of an ID to show that he is a member of the Community Relations Commission. Secretary Spadoni will prepare and send out ID cards.

Chair Lee would like to have further outreach for the CRC – NextDoor.com was suggested. Reaching out to new residents to welcome them to the community is important. Chair Lee will prepare a calendar with all Niles events, not only Village of Niles events but school, park district, library, church, ethnic community events, etc., that the CRC can have a greater presence, to get the word out to the residents that the CRC is here to help. At least one member of the CRC should try to attend these events, possible to partner with Niles Family Services. A suggestion is to have a Facebook page for CRC, maybe to have the CRC on the Village's Facebook Page or Twitter account. Physical presence and social media presence are important to stay connected.

Fair Housing - Chair Lee reported that Open Communities has trainings for Commissions like CRC, the training is about one hour. The training would include fair housing, basic Illinois housing law, and any major issues facing the Village of Niles. This training would be targeted towards the Village. There is no cost for this training. Chair Lee reported that there are now a lot of refugees living in Niles. Tony Hollenback confirmed this notion. More outreach needs to be done within the various communities to spread the word that the Village has many services available.

For the next meeting, Commissioner Ryan will put together information from the City of Chicago's Community Relations area. Chair Lee will put together an event calendar and talk to Open Communities about scheduling training.

Commissioner Trunco motioned, seconded by Commissioner Ryan to change the start time for the CRC meetings to 6:00 p.m. from 5:30 p.m.

VI. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, April 14, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Community Relations Commission, Commissioner Lee made motion, seconded by Commissioner Trunco, to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, all concurred. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

2015-2016 Community Relations Commission

Commissioners	Ex-Officio Members
Jenny Lee – Chair	Trustee John C. Jekot
Joe Kuffel	Village Manager Steven C. Vinezeano
Mary Marusek	Human Services Director Tony Hollenback
Daniel P. Ryan Sr.	Chief of Police Dennis McEnerney
Jason Trunco	
	Secretary Cathy Spadoni