

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday, February 11, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Joe Kuffel – Chair	Kathy O’Grady – Nilcs Family Services, Assistant Director
Matt Abtahi – Commissioner	Katie Schneider – Village of Nilcs, CRC Secretary
Carolyn Drblik – Commissioner	John Jekot – Village Trustees
Vicky Duka – Commissioner	
Jovan Marinac – Commissioner	

**I. Call to Order:**

Joe Kuffel called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom audio/visual conferencing at 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

**II. Approval of Meeting Summary**

Vicky Duka made a motion to accept the Minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting as presented. Matt Abtahi second the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

**III. Reported Citizen Comments/Complaints**

*a. Police and other Village Departments*

No representative from the Nilcs Police Department was present, no update was given.

Kathy O’Grady did report an issue with renters and their landlord regarding heat. Community Development will send inspectors. The renters did not believe it was discrimination, but a failure to provide adequate heat. It was determined that there was no discrimination issue, but an enforcement issue. Family Services will stay involved.

Commissioner Abtahi asked what kind of trends Family Services is seeing with what types of populations are requesting services and if Family Services tracks demographics. Kathy responded that they do not formally track race or ethnicity but she can attest that clients are a diverse group that reflects the community.

*b. Telephone / Email Hotlines*

No complaints or inquiries were submitted or reported. Commissioner Abtahi asked how the CRC Hotline is promoted. Katie Schneider replied that in the past couple of years Commissioners and Trustees were active in the community, promoting CRC services at block parties and events. All information is on the Village website and a print brochure in English, Spanish and Polish. Katie also commented that Nilcs is unique in that there is a Family Services department that handles many housing issues for residents so typically issues don’t escalate to need the CRC. Commissioners would like to see some promotion on social media.

*c. Commissioners*

There were no complaints or inquiries submitted or reported. Carolyn noted that it is difficult right now to connect with other residents since there are no public events, block parties or gatherings.

**IV. Old Business**

- a. **Equity and Inclusion Initiatives:** Since the schools already have many programs relating to diversity and inclusion, Commissioners would like to see if we can elevate or amplify those efforts. Matt Abtahi volunteered to contact the schools and get some information. Carolyn Drblik volunteered to reach out to the library. John Jekot will contact the Rotary Club of Skokie Valley. Commissioners will report back at the April meeting. The goal is to understand

what existing programs there are and if there is an opportunity for larger community engagement.

**V. New Business**

There was no new business.

**VI. Open Discussion and Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and will be electronic.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Carolyn Drblik motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Jovan Marinac second the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

*Minutes Submitted by: Katie Schneider, Secretary CRC*