



**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**
Oakton Community Center
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60076
Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: Commissioner/Chair Khemarey Khoeun
Board President Susan Aberman

Staff Present: Executive Director John Ohrlund
Supt. of Recreation & Facilities Michelle Tuft
Assistant Supt. of Recreation Jon Marquardt
Park Services Office Manager Dima Kirland

Committee Members Present: Rebecca Abraham

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Moy-Wooten
Kristina Mallorca
Jessica Beverly

Public Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Khemarey Khoeun called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
Commissioner Khoeun thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioner Khoeun provided a short update from the last meeting and discussed how the committee should proceed moving forward.

Executive Director Ohrlund said certain tasks were assigned to committee members at the last meeting with a report to be provided at this meeting.

The 7:00 pm meeting time is a challenge for some. Commissioner Khoeun suggested an 8:00 pm start for future meetings.

President Aberman provided an update on a recent meeting with Shalom Klein regarding Keshet. Keshet is a national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life. Keshet trains staff at different organizations throughout the country about inclusion. For example, Jewel hires special needs personnel who can be trained by Keshet. Keshet is also seeking companies to employ special needs adults. A meeting with Park District and MNASR staff is being scheduled.

Commissioner Khoeun mentioned that Keshet was looking for a community partner for a grant in the future.

Superintendent Tuft reported that the District has a relationship with Orchard Village and has had Orchard Village clients as hired staff in the past. It is challenging and rewarding for these Orchard Village clients. Orchard Village provides a job coach that assists with any issues.

Park District staff attends many inclusion trainings through IPRA and M-NASR.

Recycle Education – Jessica Abraham is part of the Village Sustainable Advisory Commission. The Commission attempts to improve community efforts in recycling through additional education.

The District's recycling efforts are coordinated through its Environmental Action Team (EAT). Mrs. Abraham suggest the Park District and Village committees meet together. The two committees already have a close relationship in putting on the Spring Greening event for a number of years.

Superintendent Tuft said that the Village has difficulty with recycling efforts at multi-family dwellings. It is a struggle to get people to recycle. Recycling efforts at special events have not been very successful. Incentives for recycling could be considered. The Chicago Botanic Garden has very clear signs on what to recycle. Plastic bags are recycled at the stores that provide them as required by law. Executive Director Ohrlund said that within the District, the staff is participating in all kinds of recycling including paper, plastic, glass, oils, light bulbs, etc.

Commissioner Khoeun updated and reported on the following items:

- Met with a Niles Township representative who was going to reach out to the Muslim community. Commissioner Khoeun has not heard from her yet.
- Met with Brian Williams of Skokie United. Grass Roots is having coffee shop dialogue and adding book club readings. Mr. Williams invited Commissioner Khoeun to attend the Crazy Rich Asian book reading to talk about race and culture.
- Met with Ms. Phillips from Skokie Public Library who is interested in the Diversity Advisory Committee and ACEs. Schools and the Library are working to support children with negative childhood experiences. The Library is hosting an event called "Resilient Families: Staying Strong through Life's Challenges" on Wednesday, November 14.

- Has a follow-up meeting scheduled with Jim Szczepaniak from District 219 on November 2
- Committee member Ashley Moy-Wooten joined the Village Board of Health Committee.
- Committee member Rebecca Abraham joined the Family Services Committee.

Commissioner Khoeun asked Assistant Supt. Marquardt to report on training for the ACEs Program, after school education and enrichment programs. Jon researched ACEs training for the Park District and discovered there is an organization that is providing mental health training modeled after CPR training where attendees receive a certificate of completion. Mr. Marquardt will take the training to see if it will worthwhile for the Park District.

Level of use of parks was discussed. There is a perception that use of parks has declined which could influence future park planning decisions.

SCHEDULE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Khoeun will determine the date and time for the next committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Khoeun adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Khemarey Khoeun, Commissioner

John Ohrlund, Executive Director