

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AWARENESS COMMISSION  
July 16, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Cultural and Social Awareness Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 10:30AM on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, by Chairperson Laurie Crain in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall, 121 West Calhoun, Woodstock, Illinois. A roll call was taken by Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Smiley.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jose Rivera, John Hudson, Ivy Sagrado, and Chairperson Laura Crain.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alex Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Human Resources Director Deborah Schober and Chief Deputy City Clerk Cindy Smiley.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by J. Hudson, second by J. Rivera, to approve the minutes of the April , 2013 meeting as presented. Ayes: Hudson, Rivera, Sagrado, and Chairperson Crain. Nays: none. Absentees: Mitchell. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**TOBACCO LICENSING**

D. Schober reported that this issue was discussed at the City Council Strategic Planning Workshop in June and that it was Council's feeling that there is sufficient regulation in place and that no further tobacco licensing program is need. Further, it was Council's feeling that the City's current policy concerning smoking in the City's parks is sufficient and it was not their wish to ban smoking in the parks. Mayor Sager was supportive, however of the Commission pursuing some type of social awareness campaign for Council's consideration. L. Crain stated that she would contact the Health Department to convey Council's direction, including development of a social awareness campaign.

**RESOURCE INFORMATION ON WEB PAGE**

C. Smiley reported that the People In Need resource book has been added to the City's web page in both an English-language and a Spanish-language version.

**UNITED WAY 211**

Noting that the 2-1-1 number has been created to provide information on any type of need in multiple language, L. Crain stated she will forward information to D. Schober and C. Smiley for placement on the City's web page. In addition, she will provide additional 2-1-1 cards for placement at the front desk in City Hall. A general discussion followed of the 2-1-1 program.

**2014 MEETINGS**

Following discussion of the Commission members' availability, it was the general consensus that the Commission would meet quarterly, at 6:30PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, i.e. January 6, April 7, July 7, and October 6.

As Mr. Mitchell is absent, it was the consensus of the Commission to postpone approval of these date to the next meeting, scheduled for 10:30AM on Tuesday, October 15, 2012, to allow for his input.

### **NEW AMERICANS' INITIATIVE**

Noting that Mayor Sager has given the Commission the directive to reinstate the New American's Initiative Program, L. Crain stated that the Commission should look at the resources available to them to do so. She stated that she has been trying to contact Mary Clare Schmidt to determine what needs to be done. J. Rivera stated that he would ask Ms. Schmidt to attend the October 15 meeting.

D. Schober noted that, while former liaison Janelle Crowley facilitated this program in the past, it would be inappropriate for Human Resources to do so at this time. In response L. Crain stated that the Commission understands and that the program will not be undertaken in 2013.

Discussion followed of the Commission and the community's role in this program with the Commission taking the lead. L. Crain stated that, as she gathers information, she will forward it to D. Schober for dissemination to the other members. She also asked that, should other members obtain information, they, too, forward it to Ms. Schober for transmittal to the entire Commission. This information will then be discussed at the October 15 meeting with the idea of establishing the New Americans' Initiative Program.

### **UNITING AMERICA**

L. Crain stated that she had come across the Uniting America program which asks the City to engage the community in events designed to bring the community together. Various aspects of the program were discussed and it was suggested that this be revisited by the Commission and then forwarded to the City Council. It was noted that it would be the Commission's responsibility to take on the requirements of this program, including the community event, the workshop, and the youth event. In response to a question from J. Hudson, L. Crain recommended that the Commission take the lead in offering, planning and funding the leadership academy. A budget would have to be established for this program. It was noted that the New Americans Initiative could be the workshop. It was suggested that Woodstock become an engaged partner in 2014.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that Woodstock should join Uniting America as an engaged partner which would allow the Commission to develop the community event, the workshop and the youth event.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

J. Rivera reported that he had recently returned from Zacatecas. He stated that the Mayor of Guadalupe Zacatecas is planning to visit Woodstock in the near future. He further

noted that he and Mayor Sager are planning a trip to Zacatecas September 15 through 30 and will be taking a few businesspeople from Woodstock with them to meet and develop a business exchange. I. Sagrado and L. Crain expressed interest in going also.

L. Crain informed the Commission that David Minetta, Director of the Office of Regional Drug Control Policy will be in Woodstock on Friday to meet with District 200 representatives and others to talk about alcohol and drugs and their relationship with violence.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by I. Sagrado, second by J. Rivera, to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the Cultural and Social Awareness Commission to the next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 10:30AM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Ayes: J. Hudson, J. Rivera, I. Sagrado, and Chairperson L. Crain. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: A. Mitchell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:07AM

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley  
Chief Deputy Clerk