

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**CITY OF TOWN & COUNTRY**  
**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Longview Farm House**

**Members present:** Chairman, Alderman Gussie Crawford, Members Nargis Ahmad, Donna Block, Carla Borgard, Lori Griffin, Deborah Gross, Melissa Self, Mike Self, Fred Wiesehan and Mary Kay Wiesehan. Guests present were: Ward 1 Alderman Lynn Wright and City Clerk Ashley McNamara. Also attending: City staff liaison Mary Olsen.

Meeting opened at 7:0PM.

**Minutes** – The minutes of October 29, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**Holiday Boutique** – The Holiday Boutique was very well attended and all vendors and shoppers seemed pleased with the event as a whole. Discussion followed on some of the vendors and details of the day.

**Art, Wine & Music – February 5, 2016** – Carla Borgard stated that the postcard invitations are in the mail, and the musician is confirmed. Signs and banners advertising the event are up around the City and reservations are starting to come in. Three artists are confirmed, but the Public Art Commission will add additional artists in the next few weeks. Rick Jordan will be offering his chocolate; Farotto's has donated the appetizers; Glazer's will donate the wine; and we recently learned that Nothing Bundt Cakes will again donate bundlets for dessert.

**Other - Discussion of commission changes by the Task Force on Commission Structure and Functionality** – Alderman Wright and Ashley McNamara gave the background of the Commission Structure and Functionality Task Force and stated that the Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance on January 10 that streamlined the City's Commissions. They further outlined which Commissions were dissolved, combined or changed in some way. The Community Relations Commission has been disbanded, and the Community Ambassadors has been established. The task force members looked at the City's Mission Statement and structured the Community Ambassadors' duties to more closely reflect the real function of such a group: *"maintain a hospitable environment for our residents and other stakeholders and to foster a 'sense of community'"*, as stated in the Mission Statement. There will be no ward residency restrictions, or limits on membership numbers. It will be an avenue for the residents to become involved in City events, fund-raising, ribbon-cuttings and socials without structured meetings and limitations. The Community Ambassadors will have an Aldermanic Chairman.

A motion was made and approved to state that the Community Relations Commission members have read and discussed the draft resolution establishing the Community Ambassadors and that the members had very positive opinions on this transition, and were very encouraged and optimistic about its success.

**Meeting adjourned** – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM was made by Lori Griffin, seconded by Mike Self, and unanimously approved.

Respectively submitted, Mary Olsen