

VILLAGE OF GURNEE CARE COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Community Room at the Gurnee Police Department
located at 100 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL

1. Call to Order

- A** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
- B** In Attendance: Bryson King, Gale Graves, Mark Froseth, Malcom Kelly, Patrick French, Rachel Chenier, Roger Moreano, Brooke Hagstrom, Kevin Woodside
- C** Absent: Liz Nelson, Susan Squires, Beth Pope, and Candy Reimholz
- D** Public in Attendance: Adam Krieger, Karen Thorstenson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

- A** There was no public comment.

4. Welcome

- A** Group Introductions
 - Kevin Woodside welcomed everyone to the group and praised them for their spirit of volunteerism. Due to a school board meeting that conflicted with this meeting, a few members were unable to attend. He invited everyone, members and visitors, to introduce themselves and share what they hope to achieve through the commission.
 - Adam Krieger expressed his desire to see coordinated efforts and improved communication between organizations.
 - Mark Froseth emphasized the importance of the community benefiting from available funds and leveraging tools to accomplish tasks.
 - Rachel Chenier, the Executive Director of Family First, appreciates the concept of unity and aims to bring people together. She hopes to share the needs of the Gurnee community and find the necessary resources to address them.
 - Brooke Hagstrom, a resident and volunteer with children's advocacy, has a passion for the community. As an employee of the Woodland School District, she wants to streamline services to better support families in the area.
 - Bryson King, CEO of the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative and a 2021 Warren graduate currently studying at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, seeks more opportunities for students to serve the community.
 - Roger Moreano, a Gurnee resident since 1999 with all his kids having graduated from Warren, works for the YWCA in Evanston. He focuses on equity and inclusion and aims to

identify community needs and connect people with resources while supporting local nonprofits.

- Malcom Kelly, a resident and Resource Officer at the Gurnee Police Department, expressed his desire to work with local families in need.
- Patrick French, another Gurnee resident, participates in the Rotary Club and has observed a significant need in the community. He is eager to make a meaningful impact locally.
- Gale Graves, a resident and Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of Lake County, leads the 211 initiative in the area. She envisions a collaborative effort to create a safety net for the community, focusing on education.
- Karen Thorstenson, passionate about volunteering and supporting youth, mentioned that corporations often incentivize their employees to engage in community service. She is currently a Trustee for the Village of Gurnee and leads the Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Matt Trujillo has been the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Village of Gurnee for over a year. He collaborates with the Park District, Chamber, and business community, and oversees the Block Party Grant Program and the Small Business Capital Grant Program.
- Kevin Woodside, retired Police Chief for the Village of Gurnee, is now serving his second term on the Village Board and is the president of the PADS Lake County board.

5. New Business

A Care Commission Concept and Formation

- Kevin described Mayor Hood's proposal for a Care Commission that would be resourced similarly to the Village Small Business Capital Grant program.
- Matt discussed the Small Business Capital Grant, explaining that there are two types: the Transformational Grant, which is a competitive grant of \$50,000, and the Impact Grant, which provides up to \$20,000 per site.
- The Care Commission would follow a similar process: receiving applications, considering criteria, proposing awards to the Village Board, and awarding grants.
- Kevin emphasized that establishing award criteria and an application process would be an early priority.

B Kevin opened the floor up for any questions.

- Brooke Hagstrom asked if a contact list could be shared from the group and whether there is any homework to be done.
- Kevin encouraged the group to start creating awareness of the Care Commission and reaching out to other potential partner or beneficiary organizations.
- Matt has a contact list he can share with the group.
- A question was raised about whether the meeting minutes

are posted on the website.

- Matt explained that the minutes would be posted once they are approved in the meeting and will be sent to the group in advance for review.
- Gale Graves asked how the data from everyone would be used to narrow down the focus.
- Kevin explained that the data from 211 would be a valuable tool in identifying needs.
- Adam Krieger described how the Exchange Club Foundation provided funding to non-profits supporting existing child abuse organizations. They examined the issue nationally and established a three-point definition for primary child abuse foundations to direct services effectively.
- The group discussed the possibility of multiple organizations collaborating. Rachel suggested implementing weighted applications to encourage cooperation. They proposed having initiatives focused on prevention and intervention, categorizing projects to better identify the right people to support.
- Gale emphasized the need for a framework for the application process.
- Adam raised the issue of how to address organizations located or serving outside the Village of Gurnee.
- Kevin pointed out that establishing grant criteria that recognizes non-profit organizations that provide essential services with a local impact would be essential.
- The group acknowledged potential national challenges. Kevin expressed the importance of being prepared to respond to these concerns.
- Bryson expressed excitement about the opportunity for GYLI to connect with basic needs service programs in the community and is eager to see how it develops.
- Gale mentioned the importance of using each other as resources to address any resistance they encounter.
- Rachel stated that there should be requirements to hold the organizations receiving funds accountable.
- Gale pointed out that while the community considers itself to be a place of comfort, there is an underlying need that is often overlooked.
- Gale highlighted that housing is a significant need in the community, citing phone calls from all zip codes within Lake County.

6. Public Comment

A There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

A The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.