

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Monday February 26, 2018 5:30 PM
Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present: Senaye Gebremichael; Ivania Maricela Rivera;
Julie Ressalam; Jeanette Virginia Rodriguez; Maria Schoeffler;
Christian Jimenez; Camara ChukwuFumnanya; Stephen Brunston;
Marta Lugo and Sabe Kemer

Commissioners Excused: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Other present: Alejandra Soto; Noor Shaikh

Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Senaye
2. "How to deal with mental issues and crisis" by Katie Bovee, SCL Health.
 - a. Katie could not make it to the meeting due to personal issues but asked Ricardo to pass onto some information.
 - b. Ricardo mentioned that SCL provides training, and wants to invite the Commission to partner for a training, they will be in charge of logistics. The training is a full day training (8 hours training) and it requires 16 people to participate. It is up to the Commission to consider this request.
3. Updates from Champions/Ongoing Project
 - Soccer Field Issue
 - a. Senaye mentioned that there has been only one meeting. Jeanette mentioned that last year they did an assessment and brought recommendations to the commission.
 - b. Stephen mentioned that they did not get a report back, and it has been about one year and there is not a solution yet. Stephen filed a motion suggesting writing a letter to the Supervisor of Parks & Recreation asking the history, what is the vendor and future plans. The motion was seconded by Senaye. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Ricardo mentioned that it is good to have a formal writing from the Commission and that it is good to follow the protocol.
 - Denver & AIRC Meet up
 - a. The meeting with the Denver Immigrants and Refugee Commission will take place on March 8, 2018. Time is TBD, but the meeting will last approximately 2 hours.
 - b. Ricardo mentioned that last year's meeting was held in an African restaurant, and although it was a good environment and setting, it wasn't the right place to have

conversations and achieve the objective for which the meeting was planned. Ricardo suggested to the Commission to host the meeting in a room in the City Hall where there is more chance to achieve the meeting's objective which is to share knowledge and good practices. He also mentioned that there wasn't an agenda therefore there wasn't a chance to talk about specific objectives, nor learn from the Denver Commissioners expertise.

c. Senaye commented that there is a need to have a controlled agenda and filed the motion to host the meeting in a Room in the City Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Commissioners agreed to ask the Denver Commissioners to give a brief presentation regarding the work they do.

e. Fumnanya volunteered to put together the agenda. A draft agenda was discussed in the meeting as follows:

Start / set up & food

Introduction

Welcoming & video

Denver's Commission Presentation

Q&A

Networking

f. Co-Chairs will present the work of the Commission.

g. Senanye will update the powerpoint presentation that already exists and shorten it to adjust it to the agenda.

h. Suggestions about what type of food to serve & vendors will be sent to Ricardo.

4. Search for new member (interview process)

a. Noor Shaikh that was part of the public and who works at the Aurora Municipal Center introduced herself and expressed her interest in being part of the Commission.

b. Commissioners unanimously agreed to interview only 3 candidates and to not interview the 2 candidates that were already interviewed last year.

c. All Commissioners unanimously agreed to interview the candidates after the next meeting on March 12 at 5:30 pm and finish it at 6:30 pm to start the interviews. Candidates are welcome to be present during the meeting

5. CDPHE grant awards

a. Ricardo mentioned that he would like to invite someone from Mental health to talk about the Project, because they want to engage the commission and to provide mental health services to the immigrants and refugee community.

6. Nominations for the ThankyouAmerica Campaign

a. Senaye mentioned that the Commission needs to send their nomination asap as the event is coming up soon.

b. Ricardo commented that there should be 3 nominees, one from each organization. Ricardo will share the nominations to the Commissioners by Friday March 02, so that the Commissioners have a couple of days to revise the candidates and select the person who they want to be recognized. Ricardo suggested that it may be good to select someone from the immigrant and refugee community.

- c. Fumnaya asked if the Commission could nominate someone from the Commission of if self-nominations were accepted.
- d. Commission members discuss the process on how to select the nominee. Commissioners unanimously agreed to have a meeting on Monday, March 5, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the City Hall (Room tbd) to discuss and select the nominee.
- e. Ricardo mentioned that CCA requested from a person from the Commission to play the MC role during the event. Senaye filed the motion to volunteer Christian to play this role. Commissioners seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Martha also volunteered in case there is a need of an extra person for this role.

7. OIIA Updates

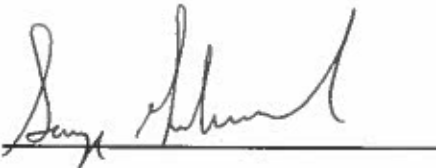
- The assessment report 2015-2017 will be released to the public and media next week. Report was distributed among the Commissioners
- Jeanette asked about the police academy, Ricardo mentioned that the flyer is being updated and will be shared with everybody once it is ready.

8. Other issues

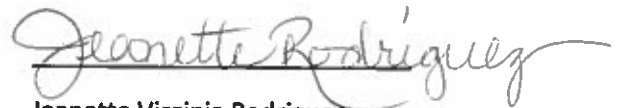
- It was discussed that up to day whenever a Commissioner is going to be absent in a meeting, the Commissioner notifies Minsoo and she notifies the Co-chairs so that the Commissioner can be excused from that meeting.
- It was unanimously agreed by the Commissioners to consider Calendar Year when counting the 3 unexcused absences.
- Ricardo mentioned that if Commissioners want to add any issue to the agenda or invite someone to the meeting, they should send their input to the Co-Chairs. Then the Co-Chairs send the agenda to the OIIA for final input.
- Jeanette and Martha requested to correct their attendance status from the January minutes as it shows that they were absent, however they were excused from the January meeting.
- Next Commission Meeting will be held on March 12 at 5:30 pm.

9. Adjourn

Senaye adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.



Senaye Gebremichael,
Co-Chair



Jeanette Virginia Rodriguez,
Co-Chair