

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Monday March 12, 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 Shoefler; Chukwu Fumnanya Camara; Marta Lugo; Sabe Kemer
Commissioners Excused: Christian Jimenez
Commissioners Absent: Stephen Brunston
Other present: Alejandra Soto; Noor Shairh; Liia Koiv-Haus (Citizens Planning Academy)
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Senaye
2. Citizens Planning Academy by Liia Koiv-Haus, City Planner
Liia mentioned that there will be a 2 days training in June and she extended the invitation to everyone interested. She mentioned that her office is trying new ways for outreach to publicize this event, as this training shows how to get involved within our community.
Marta said that there are immigrants-owened stores where they can place their informations.
Liia will share the the flyer once it is done and requested the Comission to help distributing it.
3. TYA Campaign Updates
 - a. March 15, 2018.- Ricardo will follow up on the link for the invitation. international@aurora.gov. Volunteers are needed as from 4:30 – in charge of different things, like helping invitees, etc.
 - b. Senaye, Julie, Sabe and Fummnanya will volunteer.
4. Village Exchange Center
 - a. Lara wants the AIRC to partner on Mental Health Trainng
There is going to be a mental health training and Lara extended the invitation to the AIRC. Everybody is welcome to enroll.
5. AIRC & DIRC Meetup evaluation
Thoughts:
 - Sennaye said it was a great opportunity to see what they do, share ideas, enourage one another.
 - Julie said that they are a well stablised commission and it was great to hear a great encouragement from them.

- Ricardo mentioned that we need to consider the structural differences between the two cities. Also he mentioned that it was a great opportunity to exchange practices and learn.
- Marta mentioned that it would be good to meet with them every 6 months and discussed during the meeting.
- Julie mentioned that the DIRC seemed to have small groups, where each one is tasked with a specific theme, like voter registration as part of Civic engagement.
- Jeanete mentioned that there are few meetings left and something like this – task oriented groups - should be in the agenda for this year.
- Senaye mentioned that if there is someone who thinks there is an issue please feel free to bring it to the table
- People need to know what the AIRC is, and who the Commissioners are. Championing the commissioners.
- Ricardo mentioned that the website is runned by the city clerk's office and its design. Social media is runned by the Communications department. Ricardo will pass the information to them and brief the Commission about their response.

6. Champion Updates

Senaye mentioned that everybody is encouraged to bring updates

Jeanette said that they have talked about inviting members of the Council to a meeting to learn more about the Commission.

Marta suggested that they can keep the Council in the loop by letting them know what the Commission is working on.

7. OIIA Updates

- OIIA is going to meet with the Communications team, and seek opportunities to co-host tv shows and there will be opportunity for the Commission to be present in a tv show.
- On April 6, the OIIA will proposed the City Council to join the Welcome America network as they work nationwide with refugees and immigrants, so this would be a great opportunity for trainings, grants, etc.

8. Comments from the public : None

9. Interview

- a. 2 candidates
- b. Review discussion and vote

10. Other comments:

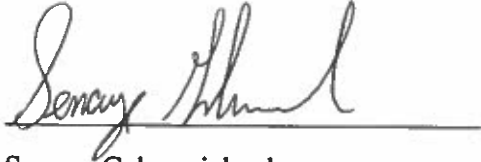
- a. Next month's agenda should include the idea of sharing chairs, switching co-chairs positions etc
- b. There was a conversation about the limits of what the Commission and Commissioners can do, like attending events and meetings and speaking on behalf of the Commission. In this regard, it was mentioned that it would be a good practice to have

common talking points about what the Commission stands for on an specific topic, like DACA, etc.

c. Next meeting will be on April 30th, 2018.

11. Adjourn

Senaye adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.



Senaye Gebremichael,
Co-Chair



Jeanette Virginia Rodriguez,
Co-Chair