

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Monday, September 10, 2018 5:30pm
Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present: ChukwuFumnanya Camara, Jeanette Virginia Rodriguez,
Julie Ressalam, Maria Schoeffler, Martha Lugo, Noor Shaikh,
Sabe Kemer

Commissioners Excused: Senaye Gebremichael, Ivania Rivera

Commissioners Absent: Christian Jimenez

Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta

The meeting was called to order at 5.40pm.

Commissioner Ressalam shared some updates about the preparations of the AIRC Listening Session. The organizers are having issues trying to select a final date due to the large amount of community events taking place at the Village Exchange Center and due to their busy work schedules of most of the AIRC members. Commissioner Shaikh will send out another internal pool to decide the best date and time for this event. Other commissioners talked about the need to produce a promotional flyer for this special AIRC event. Staff stated that would be glad to submit an internal ticket with the graphics designers but told the group the staff needs the final date, times, location and any copy for this promo materials ASAP. Otherwise, graphics is not going to be able to produce this flyer on time.

The attendees discussed the latest Global Fest event. As a part of this debrief, staff provided the members with key updates and info about the event. Commissioner Lugo thanked city staff for their great work done at Global Fest. Commissioners agreed that this year's event was a total success and they wanted to become more involved in the preparation and planning for next year.

Staff suggested the commissioners to take a more proactive leadership role participating in the Global Fest Community Advisory Committee. Commissioners agreed with this idea. In addition, attendees discussed the pro and cons of being in charge of the map and the flags tattoos, people were split on this issue.

Commissioners agreed to continue with this internal discussion early next year.

AIRC members discussed the next steps regarding new appointments and reappointments, there are four current commissioners with term limits at this time. Also, they discussed being more flexible regarding the attendance requirement and other potential changes to the current AIRC by-laws. A motion was approved to change the leadership structure of the commission changing from the current model of two co-chairs to a single co-chairs. Also, was approved the creation of the vice-chair position.

Commissioners discussed the situation with current Co-Chair that due to changes in his job schedule cannot attend AIRC meetings anymore. Commissioners expressed that it's extremely difficult to run the commission without being present in the

meetings. Commissioner Shaikh agreed to review other proposed changes and share with the members in the next AIRC meeting in October.

The group discussed the preparation for their upcoming presentation before the Foundations and Quality of Life Policy committee. Commissioner Shaikh offered to prepare a draft presentation for this important upcoming meeting. The final draft will be presented to the group in the AIRC October meeting.

Staff share info about current OIIA projects, activities and events, including the binational health Week celebration to take place during the month of October. OIIA has been working with the Consulate of Mexico in the planning of several health fairs to be held in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm.

Senaye Gebremichael,
Co-Chair



Jeanette Virginia Rodriguez,
Co-Chair