

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Monday, October 18, 2021

5:30pm Zoom Meeting

Commissioners Present: Mark Wideman; Julie Ressalam; Linda Skelley; Kevin Vargas; Salvador Cazun
Commissioners Excused: Karen Colato; Lizzy Beachland; Jakie Zvenicks
Commissioners Absent: Samuel Gebremichael; Sabe Kemer
Other present: Nikte Contreras, Avondine Hill
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Chair Kevin Vargas
- 2) OIIA Update:
 - El Salvador City Park: in the process of getting approval through Policy Committee and Council
 - Virtual Business Mall: Central American Chamber of Commerce
 - Mini Coffee Expo: organizing mini expo with coffee producer from El Salvador
 - Research report on Salvadorans in Colorado: partnership with UTEC
 - Support/ Create new sister city relationship with potential city in El Salvador
- 3) Here Together is the newly established foundation based in Aurora partnering with Omni. Here Together's team is working on creating ground level relationships of Aurora and focusing on grassroots effort connecting organization and the community. Chair Vargas asked what ways to support Here Together and Ms. Contreras answered connecting them with community would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Gambetta asked the specific area that the foundation will be focused on and Mr. Hill answered that Here Together's goal is to have community identify the area that needs funding in Aurora. Vice-Chair Ressalam asked the timeline/deadline and Ms. Contreras answered that Here Together will start funding beginning of new year. Commissioner Skelley praised their effort to identify the need in the community.
- 4) Aurora Global Market
 - Ms Song provided update on Fletcher Plaza Fall Festival. OIIA and SBDC will be one of the sponsors and OIIA will have the table to share resources with community. Ms. Song extended the invitation to AIRC members.
 - Fletcher Plaza Fall Festival: Saturday, Oct 23, 11am-3pm
- 5) AIRC Member Update
 - Chair Vargas has been working Covid Vaccine Clinic at his church.
 - Vice Chair Ressalam is working on Covid -19 treatment study for diverse community.
 - Commissioner Skelley shared Community Network Breakfast update and Gabriella suggested to provide the training to facilitate future meetings.
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 - Commissioner Wideman has been working on making connection and creating relationship with schools.
 - Mr. Hill proposed connecting AIRC with Reeds Business School of CU Boulder on AIRC's campaign effort to promote small business owned by immigrant and refugee community.

6) Chair Vargas adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm

Kevin Vargas

Vargas, Kevin

Chair

Resalam, Julie

Vice-Chair