

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Monday, August 9, 2021

5:30pm Zoom Meeting

Commissioners Present: Mark Wideman; Julie Ressalam; Kevin Vargas; Jackie Zvjenicks; Samuel Gebremichael; Sabe Kemer
Commissioners Excused: Linda Skelley, Lizzy Beachland, Karen Colato
Commissioners Absent: None
Other present: Anne Keke and John Abramson
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Chair Kevin Vargas
- 2) Meeting minutes has been approved by Chair Kevin Vargas
- 3) OIIA Update:
 - Citywide Language Access Plan will be presented to City Manager and OIIA will share the plan as soon as it is approved by city's leadership
 - RTD proposed another feedback session to gather community's input during AIRC September meeting
 - Invitation to Meet & Greet session with Aurora Deputy City Manager finalists
 - African Soccer Gala invitation @ Double Tree Hotel
- 4) Introducing of Anne Keke
- 5) High Line Canal Conservancy Portrait Project
Commissioner Zvjenicks asked the purpose of complete photo book and John answered that it will be used to raise more funding to High Line Canal Project
Mr. Abramson would like to include more diverse community in the city and asked AIRC for recommendation
- 6) Policy Committee Annual Report Preparation
 - AIRC Annual Report is scheduled on Thursday, August 26, 3:00-4:30pm WebEx
- 7) Finalize AIRC Work Plan
 - Mr. Gambetta shared the update on Hastag campaign that Aurora SBDC will partner on this project by providing small funding. Chair Vargas and Commissioner Beachland will send out the schedule to commission members along with instruction
 - Commissioner Zvejniaks shared progress on Community Network meeting. Mr. Gambetta suggested the AIRC to be the host and OIIA will support. Vice-chair Ressalam proposed to AIRC sponsor quarterly meetings.
 - Commissioner Wideman has been building relationship with community leaders and community members.
 - Chair Vargas encouraged commission members to sign up for AIRC goals
 - Vice-Chair Ressalam shared that she visited Farmer's market and proposed if AIRC would like to

reach out to them and highlight those business.

8) Member update:

- Commissioner Zvejnieks shared that CCA will host in-person class with mask mandate.
- Commissioner Wideman will be helping food business in the city and asked AIRC members for the connection with our community members.
- Chair Vargas asked to connect him with SIV recipients.

9) Chair Vargas adjourned the meeting at 6:53pm.



Chair, Kevin Vargas



Vice-Chair, Julie Ressalam