

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:30pm

City Café, Aurora Municipal Center

Commissioners Present: Linda Skelley; Jakie Zvejniecks; Kevin Vargas; Salvador Cazun; Lizzy Beachland; Samuel Gebremichael
Commissioners Excused: Mark Wideman
Commissioners Absent: None
Other present: Sabe Kemer, Julie Ressler
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 5:41pm by Chair Kevin Vargas
- 2) OIIA Update:
 - Mr. Gambetta debriefed on the UN Refugee Delegation's visit to Aurora and thanked Commissioner Zvejnieks, Vargas, and GebreMichael for joining at the presentation to share best practices with the delegation.
 - OIIA received the grant of \$50,000 from the private foundation for its immigrant integration effort and will be welcoming a contract Community Outreach Specialist
- 3) Member Term Clarification
 - Ms. Song shared the Immigrant and Refugee Commission Ordinance from 2016 when the AIRC was first established.
 - Ms. Song suggested to revise AIRC bylaws to reflect the ordinance.
 - Commissioner Beachland made a motion to revise AIRC by laws to align with the ordinance and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner GebreMichael volunteered to review the bylaws to reflect city's code & charter and the ordinance.
 - Chair Vargas asked commissioners to promote AIRC openings with their own networks.
- 4) Global Fest
 - AIRC members will be bringing some ideas by next meeting and Chair Vargas will work with Ms. Song to reach out to the previous participants.
- 5) AIRC Goals
 - Chair Vargas suggested to revisit AIRC's goals for 2022 and asked AIRC members to identify the area where each member want to participate by May meeting
- 6) Member update
 - Commissioner Zvejnieks asked commissioners to send her any events in the community to share with the group
 - Commissioner Beachland asked Commissioners to submit the bios and encouraged commissioners to visit the local business owned by immigrant and refugee community.
 - Commissioner Cazun shared update on the showing of "Las Pupusas" at AMC
- 7) Chair Vargas adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm



Vargas, Kevin
Chair