

Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Tuesday, July 12, 2022,
City Café, 2nd Floor, Aurora Municipal Center

Commissioners Present: Kevin Vargas; Jackie Zvejniecks, Linda Skelley;
Samuel GebreMichael, Mark Wideman
Commissioners Excused: Salvador Cazun, Lizzy Beachland
Commissioners Absent: None
Other Present: Julie Ressalam,
Ola Kukoyi (Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission)
Staff Present: Minsoo Song, Ricardo Gambetta and Malika Farmonbekova

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Vargas at 5:40 pm

Meeting and Greeting Ms. Ola Kukoyi, Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission

DIRC (Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission) offered to help with the following:

1. Carrying out flags during Global Fest (already recruited 5 people)
2. Ola requested the lists of things that OIIA needs help with during Global Fest and present it to DIRC members
3. If the DIRC is recruiting more than one person, it might be better to apply for the “volunteer for the day” opportunity during the Global Fest, Mr. Gambetta suggested
4. Ola questioned the dress code and the age requirement to carry the flag and Ms. Song answered no traditional/formal dress code is required nor age limit.

OIIA Update

1. 07/27/22 6:00 pm Peruvian Independence Day VIP reception @ AMC Lobby, food will be served, AIRC members are invited
2. 07/29/22 12:00 pm Meet and Greet with Chief Oates and Ethnic Media Partners at the People’s Building. AIRC will be co-hosting this meeting.
3. 08/08/22 6:30pm, At the Council Meeting, the proclamation will be presented. The city will dedicate August as an “International Month”
 - Global Fest entertainment groups and AIRC members are invited to receive the proclamation during the council meeting.
 - Mr. Gambetta proposed to acknowledge couple champions for immigrant and refugee community at the Global Leaders Reception. AIRC members were requested to nominate someone from the immigrant community; an individual or an organization for their best effort in helping their community throughout the year
4. 08/19/22 6:00 pm Global Fest Kick-Off Reception will be held at AMC lobby supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Denver. AIRC member are invited
5. 08/20/22 10:00 am Global Fest

6. 08/24/22 09:00 am Naturalization Ceremony AIRC members are invited
7. 08/24/22 3:30 pm AIRC Annual Report at Council PRCTLBCCG Policy Committee is scheduled. Kevin Vargas, the chair and Linda Skelley will be presenting the annual report. (Virtual meeting)

Global Fest

1. Applications for vendors are still open and OIIA is encouraging more people to apply. AIRC members were requested to share the information among their contact lists.
2. The AIRC members agreed that during the Parade of Nations, the MC will announce the name of the county and not providing the opportunity to greet the audience in their native language to prevent any delay or non-parade-related speech.
3. Carrying Flags during Parade of Nation
 - Shortage of people who could carry the remaining flags OIIA currently has. AIRC members were encouraged to share the information among their contact lists.
 - AIRC offered help and already has 5 recruits
 - Volunteers (who carry the flag) in the Parade of Nations are required to check in by 10:30 am.

Members Update

- Kevin Vargas will serve as the chair until the next commission meeting (August 2022)
- If AIRC members are willing to extend their membership in the AIRC for another year they need to let city staff know by the end of the week.
- For future appointment/reappointment process, AIRC will start the interview/appointment recommendation memo process in advance to prevent any gap between terms.
- AIRC is seeking 4 more new members and the AIRC members are requested to share open application information among their contact lists and encourage people to apply.
- AIRC agreed to host a special meeting to conduct the interview as needed.
- Kevin Vargas shared the information on VC hosting the 4 Vaccination Clinic in July and August.
- 07/26/22 6:00 pm Denver Art Museum Excursion for the AIRC members invited by Ms. Song

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm by Kevin Vargas



Kevin Vargas, Chair