



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
 Stella Chao, Director

Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board
May Meeting Minutes

Venue: City Hall Room 370
 Date: May 5, 2010
 Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Attendance:

- *Board Members:* Paulina Bermudez-Lopez, Alaric Bien, Cherry Cayabyab, Lesley A. Irizarry-Hougan, Shankar Narayan, Jesus Rodriquez, Magdalena Rose-Avila, Yasemin San, Mengstab Tzegai
- *City Staff:* Roxana Norouzi (DON), Yemane Gebremicael (DON), Stella Chao (DON)

Next Meeting Info: Wednesday June 2, 2010 at City Hall-Snack Leno and Cherry

June Action Items:

Date	Item	Who	Completed	Comments
5/5/10	Resend budget letter to Board	Roxana		
5/5/10	Write letter endorsing Arizona boycott	Shankar, Jesus		Complete by 5/12/10
5/5/10	Research city legislation options i.e. resolution, executive order, ordinance	Shankar		
5/5/10	Prepare budget presentations for committees	Leno, Cherry, Jesus Alaric, Stella, Yemane		
5/5/10	Meet with Mayor about Arizona executive order and other priorities	Leno, Paulina, Shankar and Lesley		
5/5/10	Update presentation protocol with suggestions	Paulina/Halima		
5/5/10	Send subcommittee mandates to city	City subcommittee		Roxana to format and send example of state/federal mandates
5/5/10	Review I&R website and update bios	All board members		
5/5/10	Contact NCI to respond regarding outline and presentation at subcommittee meeting	City policy subcommittee		
5/5/10	Create summary of the I&R work plan and talking points for I&R board	Jesus and Leno		
5/5/10	Arrange presentation for South Park Bridge Closure	Paulina		

Update on May Action Items:

Item	Who	Completed	Comments
Review I&R website and update bios	All board members	Add to June	

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Contact NCI to respond regarding outline and presentation at subcommittee meeting	City policy subcommittee	Unknown	
Send budget letter to all councilmembers and mayor	City staff	Complete	
Attend budget public hearings	April 28-muhamed Q & Mengstab May 4-Muhamed, Jesus, Devon	Jesus attended-complete	
Complete and submit proposal for the Seattle Race Conference	Halima	Complete	4/16/10
Send individual letters to city council and mayor about I&R budget priorities	All Board members	Complete	Letters need to be sent directly-resend budget letter
Determine protocol for presenters and meetings with councilmembers	Halima, Paulina	Complete	
Send thank you and follow-up letter to CM Conlin	Jesus/city staff	Complete	
Send subcommittee mandates to city	All subcommittees	Add to June	
Contact OIR to get info on refugee resettlement federal extension policy	Yemane	Postponed due to mtg with OIR	
Create summary of the I&R work plan and talking points for I&R board	Jesus and Leno	Add to June	
Send CIR letter to mayor and city council	Roxana	Complete	
Set up meeting with OIR state and federal lobbyist	Roxana	Postponed due to mtg w/OIR	

Brief Summary: The meeting began with an announcement that several board members called in sick and will not be able to make it to the meeting. Quorum for the meeting was established and the April meeting minutes were approved. The April action items were updated and discussed including a report back of the city budget hearings. The board decided that they will encourage the city to implement RSJI budget filters through giving presentations at various city council committee meetings. The anti-immigrant Arizona legislation was discussed as well as a possible Arizona boycott from the City of Seattle. The board determined some possible ways to support the boycott and oppose this legislation including writing a letter and meeting with the mayor. The protocol to utilize for presentations at board meetings was introduced and suggestions for improvement were given. It was announced that the South Park bridge will close in June and as a result, the board will have a presentation at the next board meeting to gain information about this issue.

Agenda Items:

Housekeeping

- Motion to approve April meeting minutes- motion seconded
 - Vote: 7 vote in favor of approving March minutes 2 abstain-Motion passes

Review of April Action Items

- See Above

City Budget Hearings

- Jesus attended the budget public hearing at North Seattle Community College
 - No people of color or immigrant/refugee representation therefore it is really important for board to be present to represent these communities
- Discussion about how board can influence city budget decisions
 - Letter from the board stating budget priorities was sent to councilmembers/mayor and board members also individually sent letters
- Stella suggests that most traction will be around urging city to apply RSJI budget filter
 - Board should pressure city to implement this structure that is already in place
 - Suggestion to work with CBO's to write letters in support of RSJI filter
 - Also option to give presentations at committee meetings (Licata's committee which meets 2x/month) to present budget priorities including RSJI filter
 - Yemane now receives updates on committee meetings and will forward these to board
 - Unsure if city policy subcommittee has the momentum to take presentations on
 - Alaric, Jesus, Leno and Cherry volunteered to work on this with Leno taking the lead and Stella and Yemane assisting

Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) Meeting

- It was determined that OIR lobbyist are not to meet with community members or boards directly since direction comes from mayor and city council
 - It was directed that all communication needs to go through DON
 - It is announced that DON will meet with OIR and follow up with board
- City staff requests that board members refrain from contacting OIR directly
 - Board members agree and DON will relay information about process of OIR to board

Meeting with Councilmembers

- Nick Licata's visit to the board meeting has not yet been rescheduled but is in the process
 - Yemane has contacted his office and is waiting for reply

Arizona Legislation

- A press conference was scheduled to be held regarding Arizona boycott city council resolution
 - Presentation of the resolution and press conference have been postponed because city is working with other Westcoast cities to coordinate boycott efforts to maximize effect
 - Resolution is now scheduled for May 17 city council meeting
- Board members are encouraged to write or call CM Clark to encourage her support of the boycott
- Board is interested in officially endorsing the Arizona boycott
- Discussion about executive power of a resolution
 - A resolution is non-binding
 - A city council ordinance becomes municipal law which is binding

- An executive order through the Mayor is also binding
 - Possible for board to urge mayor to endorse a boycott through executive order
- Shankar will research which option is the best route and then board will determine next steps based on this information
 - Concern that this will delay process and board should show leadership and take action immediately
- Board decides to write a letter supporting boycott
 - Shankar and Jesus will work on this together and submit by next Wednesday 5/12/10
- Board also agrees to meet with Mayor and staff about a possible executive order
 - Leno, Paulina, Shankar and Lesley will work on this
 - They will also suggest that Mayor reiterate law that city officials/law enforcement cannot ask for or question immigration status
 - Others issues to be discussed with mayor in addition to Arizona boycott are: RSJI budget filter, push for extension of refugee resettlement benefits, and CIR
- Another law is also being passed in Arizona to ban ethnic studies and promote English only policy for instructors
 - Arizona passes a lot of anti-immigrant legislation (45 pieces last year)
 - Board will possibly advocate for this as well which can be part of meeting with mayor

Debrief on Immigration Rally and March

- Several board members attended rally on April 10th and march on May 1st. Reports include:
 - Wonderful energy around immigration reform
 - A lot of representation from Asian community at April 10th rally
 - Great turn out for May Day march
 - Important to concentrate on media and educate media on issues
 - Focus on message that this is about everyone's civil rights not about documented and undocumented
 - Suggestion to include this explanation in letter to mayor

Protocol for Presentations

- Paulina and Halima worked on preparing protocol for presentations document that came out of meeting with CM Conlin
 - This just serves as an outline and board will prepare in advance based on the committees each CM serves on
- It is decided that chair or board member who has met with CM in past with will give introduction and facilitate conversation so questions can be filtered through that person
- Thank you letter will also be sent by this person as a follow up
- Suggestion: board needs to be unified on 3 main issues and be clear about this in order for CM's to understand 'ask'
 - This can evolve out of the 'elevator speech' that will be put together this month
 - Important to forge identity as a board and really narrow down top three issues
 - Important to give a written statement of priorities as well

- Clarification around whether this protocol is for when CM's come to meetings or when board members go to the CM-it can serve both purposes
 - There may be a difference in depth based on the context and structure
 - Protocol will be edited to explicate what differences will be in each instance
- Paulina will add to protocol: “agree on relevant questions prior to meeting via email” and “distribute written statement of priorities”
- This protocol will be included on j drive and also posted on website

Subcommittee Mandates

- Important for subcommittees to submit mandates to post on website and for public
 - This has been done by the state/federal subcommittee and Roxana will put this into the template and send to all board members as model
- Others subcommittees agree to create mandate and send to city staff by next meeting

South Park Bridge

- South Park Bridge will close June 30th and no plans for reconstruction
 - On safety scores of 0-100, the bridge got a rating of 4 determining it is one of the most unsafe structures in US
- If the city happens to receive federal funding the bridge may be rebuilt in 3-5 years
- This disproportionately impacts immigrant/refugee communities and people of color
- Important to know the facts and share with community
 - Paulina will send document with information to board
 - Suggestion for Paulina to draft a letter explicating negative impact of bridge closure on these communities
 - Bridge belongs to King County so important to address King County with letter
- Andres Mantilla and Paulina Lopez will be invited to next board meeting to present impact of bridge closure
 - Paulina will arrange this for June board meeting

Meeting Adjourned