

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

October 01, 2019 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Gina Aaftaab, Eric Holzapfel, Ankita Patel, Farhiya Mohamed, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Johnson Nguyen, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Maria Zepeda Flores,

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe, Maya Babla Appiah

Staff Present: Joaquin Uy

Guests: Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Karen Gamez, Karina San Juan

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Welcome (Chair)

Ankita opened the meeting and changed the agenda slightly. We eliminated the OIRA Report. The new agenda:

AGENDA

Welcome

Approval of Minutes

Community Update

Commission Business

Budget Discussion

Subcommittee Leads Updates

Approval of Minutes (Chair)

Minutes for September were approved unanimously.

Community Updates (All)

Commissioners shared various community events. Commissioners to send community events/updates to José Manuel one week ahead of meeting to include in Director's Report. Johnson has the full detailed list of community events:

- Ventures co-hosting KYR Workshop - 10/7
- Ventures co-hosting a home and cooking campaign 10/9
- VFA Rebrand Launch 10/24
- Seattle Gujarati Community Celebration in Bellevue 10/4,5 and 10/11,12 (Small cover charge and cultural norms)
- Dia De Los Muertos 11/2
- U.S. Census Task Force Meeting in the City Hall Historical Room - 7th Floor - 10/3
- El Centro de la Raza Gala 10/12
- Dia De Los Muertos celebration 11/1
- Somali Family Safe Task Force Gala 10/11 6-8PM
- Opening of SeaMar Chicano Museum 10/3

Maria provided an update of yesterday's candidate forum hosted by the Human Rights, People with Disabilities, LGBTQ, Women's, and Immigrant & Refugee Commissions.

Commission Business (All)

- Announced that Peggy will be taking over the staffing of the commission in November.
- Announced a new policy of signing up to take notes for all future meetings, with the office liaison reminding the notetaker to bring in a laptop before each staff meeting: Gina-Jan; Maria-Feb; Shelani-March.
- Leadership opportunity available: Medhanit and Farhiya will review the Women's Empowerment Workplan.
- Proposal for revised decision-making criteria for commission budget spending.
- Maria talked about planning for the upcoming commission retreat. All commissioners should fill out the Doodle poll by the end of this week!!!

Budget Discussion (Ankita and Joaquin)

- Ankita presented the City budget process for the commissions.
- Joaquin summarized the OIRA budget presentation to City Council that took place on September 27.
- Commission discussed which departments would be priorities for auditing budgets.
- Commission letter to Council should be sent by Friday, October 25. Budget calendar here: <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Committees/Budget/Fall-2019-Budget-Review-Calendar.pdf>

Subcommittee Leads Updates

Youth (Johnson and Maria)

- Presented to DEEL on Equitable and Inclusive Outreach and Engagement because Seattle passed a levy last year focused on early learning.
- Also discussed plain English and transcreation v. translation.

Economic Empowerment (Shelani)

- Met with OSE director Jessica Finn-Coven about this issue. And looked at the City's procurement process.
- Will be meeting with Sean Larson about this issue.

Women's Empowerment (Farhiya)

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Farhiya suggested that the commission partner with MODVSA to issue a statement.
- Farhiya met with Lan from the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (MODVSA) housed in HSD.

Census (Gina)

- Provided an update on the citizenship question and Census 2020. Will be attending the City of Seattle Census Task Force meeting this Thursday.
- Eric encouraged members to attend the Statewide Census Summit, which is 11/15-16 and to connect with Washington Census Alliance coordinator Kamau Chege.
- Ankita mentioned that Regional Census Fund applications are open: https://seattlefoundation.smapply.org/prog/regional_census_fund/
- Regional Census Fund is also sponsoring listening sessions to hear from communities about funding.
- Eric provided a number of local and statewide Census 2020 updates.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:05 pm.