

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

January 07, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maya Babla Appiah, Gina Aaftaab, Ilays Aden, Maria Jimenez-Zepeda (call in), Karen Gamez, Ankita Patel, Johnson Nguyen, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Amanda Sandoval

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe, Farhiya Mohamed, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Ankita Patel

Staff Present: José Manuel Vasquez, Paul Quiñonez-Figueroa, Peggy Liao

Guests: n/a

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Maya opened the meeting.

Action Taken:

- The Commission voted that Maria and Gina to be 2020 co-chairs.
- The commission voted and approved October 2019's minute.

OIRA Report (José Manuel)

José Manuel and Peggy Liao shared current updates on the work OIRA is doing.

Workplan Discussion

The Commission spitted into subcommittee groups and discussed around their individual roles in each subcommittee.

Commissioners selected a subcommittee that they'd like to support. 2020 structure for subcommittees:

- Census – Gina
Keep supporting 2020 Census work.
- Women's Empowerment – Medi, Amanda, Karina
Contact HSD and King County; Focus on domestic workers.
- Education & Youth – Maria, Johnson, Denisse, Karen
Contact Seattle Public Schools; Contact the Youth Commission and bring youth to our meeting; Deepen relationships with DEEL.
- Economic Development – Shelani, Ilays, Maya

Focus on RFP and contracting; reach out to City Council member district 2 Tammy Morales;
Tell small business owners' stories and help raise awareness.

Future opportunities and tasks may occur that commissioners can support. Commissioners can also submit letter of support for rapid response or make other plan to support work that impact the immigrant and refugee communities.

Community and Subcommittee Updates (All)

- The Commission will revisit the action of assigning subcommittee leads roles at the next meeting
- Eat with Muslims will co-host a film screening on 2/6 at UW
- Paul will share more information around the Park Levy campaign
- Other community events

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00 pm