

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

August 5, 6:00-8:00 PM

City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michele Ramirez, Farhiya Mohamed, Mindy Au, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Jeniffer Calleja, Shree Ram Dahal, Veasna Adrian Hoy, Kianoush Naficy, Susana Mercado Alvarado, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Simon Khin, Roxana Norouzi

Commissioners Absent: Michael Neguse, Dori Cahn

Guests: Jeniffer Meissner, Alice Coday, Phil Deng, Yemane Gebremichael, Leigh Momii

OIRA Staff Present: Cuc Vu, Sahar Fathi

Call to Order: 6:12 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)-

A poll was taken to make sure a majority of commissioners would be present at the September meeting. A short discussion took place around preparation for the budget period in October.

Introduction of New Director (Cuc Vu)-

The new director introduced herself and gave a short talk about her background and her vision for OIRA.

Director's Report (Cuc)-

Cuc spoke to the issues that had been raised in the last month's commission meeting. She briefed the commission on the recent Council discussion about municipal IDs

Housekeeping/Approve August Minutes (Co-Chairs)-

Jen moved for approval of the August minutes and Shree seconded. All approved, except abstention from Roxana.

Marketshare Presentation (Phil and Leigh) -

Marketshare presented their organization and the fellowship that they have for mobile food business development in the immigrant and refugee community. There are two opportunities that are completely free and Marketshare is looking for applications. The application deadline is

September 30. The applicant profile is anyone with a passion for cooking who has not had the opportunity to pursue that dream. The fellowship includes equipment, kitchen time, ingredients, stall, marketing help, social media help, consultants, PR help, and working with established industry professionals. More information can be obtained from Phil at phil@buildthemarket.org.

Subcommittee Reports (All)-

Each subcommittee read the top items from their final report. Shree announced the results of the Executive Committee: Roxana and Mindy received the majority of the votes. The commissioners also discussed the final language change in the bylaws, that co-chairs shall be limited to a two year term.

Emerging Issues and Trends in the Community (All)-

Susana spoke to the unaccompanied minor's situation. The commissioners discussed writing a letter or checking in with NWIRP to get more ideas. They decided to write an op-ed about changing the rhetoric.

Yemane spoke to the recruitment process for SPD's East African liaison. He asked if the commission or a member of OIRA could be involved in the process.

Announcements (All):

Simon announced that 14 teams of Burmese refugees are playing soccer this weekend. They hail from Vancouver, Portland and Spokane.

Adjourn

8:02 pm.