

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

September 2, 6:00-8:00 PM

City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michele Ramirez, Shree Ram Dahal, Susana Mercado Alvarado, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Roxana Norouzi, Michael Neguse, Dori Cahn

Commissioners Absent: Farhiya Mohamed, Mindy Au, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Jeniffer Calleja, Veasna Adrian Hoy, Kianoush Naficy, Simon Khin

Guests: Hamda Yusuf, Senait Brown, Gabriella Sanchez-Stern, Mizan Abraha

OIRA Staff Present: Cuc Vu, Sahar Fathi, Ivonne Rivera Martinez

Call to Order: 6:08 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)-

The meeting was opened by Shree. The August minutes were not approved because quorum had not been reached in the meeting. They will be held until the September meeting.

There was a report back from the Five Commissions meeting. The commission was briefed on various topics that the Women's commission and the Human Rights commission are working on this year and there was some discussion around possible collaboration.

There was also some discussion around the new policies being proposed by the Seattle Housing Authority. The group decided to attend a few public hearings and get informed in order to draft a letter. There were some specific points mentioned.

Director's Report (Cuc)-

Cuc spoke to the launch of the Refugee Women's Institute. She also spoke to the job opening for an English Language Learner program specialist and the openings in the office that have been filled. She also announced that the city of Seattle will be joining Cities for Citizenship.

Remote Area Medical (Ivonne)-

Ivonne made an announcement discussing RAM. The program will serve 1000 people per day and they have materials in multiple languages, status will not be asked, interpretation will be provided.

RSJI Listening Session (Senait and Gabriella) -

The commission went into executive session for an RSJI listening session with OCR staff.

Emerging Issues and Trends in the Community (All)-

Due to the lack of time, this was skipped.

Announcements (All):

Due to the lack of time, this was skipped.

Adjourn

8:05 pm.