

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
November 4, 2015 (6:00-7:00 PM)
Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Michele Ramirez, , Roxana Norouzi, Jeniffer Calleja, Marilena Morales, Dori Cahn, Veasna Adrian Hoy, Kianoush, Naficy, Farhiya Mohamed,

Commissioners Absent: Simon Khin, Isatou Jallow, Mindy Au, Laurel Sito, Luis Ortega, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay,

OIRA Staff Present: Aaliyah, Gupta Maha Jahshan

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Jennifer opened the meeting. Marilena moved to approve the October minutes and Tsegaba seconded. They were unanimously approved.

OIRA Director's Report

Aaliyah gave the Director's Report. She highlighted OIRA's outreach events and the Deputy Director search.

Emerging Trends and Issues in the Community (Co-Chairs)

Discussed upcoming community events including:

November 7th: Somali Community Forum on Education

November 13th: Voter registration for Cambodian Community

December 3rd: Reducing Brain Waste: Creating Career Pathways for Foreign-Educated Immigrants in Washington State Report Release.

Subcommittee Updates (All)-

The Executive Sub Committee reminded people about the committee attendance policy and also that the co-chair tenure for Jeniffer is terming out and people should think about who the next co-chair in training should be.

The Economic Justice Subcommittee met with NWIRP team who discussed U visas and the capacity of creating a one-pager for community. They also met with Maggie Thompson from the Mayor's

office to discuss homelessness. Will explore ways to see how commission can connect with city plans on ending homelessness.

The Education Subcommittee looking to set up an educational field trip to Seattle World School and a dual language preschool. Follow up with email and potential days. In the middle of work day. 1:15-3:45 talking with admin and seeing the classroom. Send a Doodle poll for staff. Looking into creating a one pager messaging on bilingualism in schools.

The Immigration Subcommittee- looking in to hosting another site visit to the old detention center in the spring time. Also creating a one-pager on deportation resources for family members.

Announcements (All)-

Co-Chairs will send a list of restaurants to vote on in order to host annual commission holiday dinner.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 7:05 pm.