

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

January 6, 2015 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Shree Ram Dahal, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Dori Cahn, Mindy Au, Jeniffer Calleja, Farhiya Mohamed, Michele Ramirez, Roxana Norouzi, Kianoush Naficy, Mohamed Adan, Veasna Adrian Hoy

Commissioners Absent: Simon Khin, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

Guests: Vu Le, Raul Alicdan

OIRA Staff Present: Sahar Fathi

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)-

Shree and Jen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Shree moved for approval of the minutes, Mindy seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Jen thanked Shree for his service as co-chair and spoke to the appointment of Riddhi as the new co-chair. The group completed an ice breaker exercise.

Rainier Valley Corps (Vu, Raul)

The presentation began with a presentation of the history of the Rainier Valley Corps. The organization was created to increase the capacity of communities of color in the Rainier Valley. The organization taps young and talented people who want to work in the nonprofit sector and support them to be more involved in civic engagement and systemic change. The model is based off of Americorps, but focuses on immigrant and refugee nonprofits. Staff discussed the logistics and timeline for the project. The age range is suggested around the age of a college graduate, although a degree is not necessary and there is additional work around credentialing with Seattle University to support foreign graduates. Stipend is \$10,000. The commission suggested additional outreach outlets like the SHA economic opportunity department and the career centers at local colleges. They also suggested advertising clips that discuss the advantage of working for a nonprofit.

Robert's Rules of Order (Sahar, Co-chairs)

Per the Executive subcommittee's request, the group went over some of the more basic rules in Robert's Rules of Order.

Director's Report (Sahar) -

Sahar reported on this in Cuc's absence – the report was largely around Ready to Work and the next steps in place, as well as the National Immigrant Integration Conference.

Subcommittee Updates (All)–

The Immigration subcommittee reported on the detention center tour that they are planning – the final date will be March 3, 2015. They discussed the need for an external facilitator to support a debrief with the group.

The Economic Justice subcommittee discussed their meetings with Family Housing Connection and the Office of Policy and Innovation's intern on homelessness issues. They asked for advice on next steps for UVisa research.

Emerging Issues and Trends in the Community (All) (Executive Session)

The group celebrated Michael and Susana's time on the commission. There was some discussion around an incident at China Harbor and rules around nightlife. The IMPRINT survey was mentioned as well.

Adjourn

8:00 pm.