

Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board February Meeting Minutes

Venue: Central Area Motivation Project (CAMP)
Date: February 10, 2010
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Attendance:

- *Board Members:* Devon Alisa Abdallah, Alaric Bien, Andrea Caupain, Cherry Cayabyab, Lesley A. Irizarry-Hougan, Muhamed Qatrani, Yasemin San,
- *City Staff:* Roxana Norouzi (DON), Yemane Gebremicael (DON)

Next Meeting Info: Wednesday March 3, 2010 at City Hall-Snack Yasemin

February Action Items:

Date	Item	Who	Completed	Comments
2/9/10	Make updates to bylaws and send for approval at next board meeting	Alaric	2/11/10	
2/9/10	Reschedule meeting with CM O'Brien	Halima & Yasemin		
2/9/10	Send letter inviting councilmembers to I&R meetings	Roxana/Stella	2/11/10	
2/9/10	Check for openings on 6 priority boards and commissions	Yemane		
2/9/10	Complete census press release and schedule census subcommittee meeting	Cherry, Alaric, Jesus, & Roxana		To complete by 3/1/10
2/9/10	Draft letter to mayor to address city budget cuts and I&R priorities	Muhamed Q.		
2/9/10	Obtain budget schedule, budget meeting dates and verify which CM heads budget committee	Yemane		
2/9/10	State and Federal Policy subcommittee to schedule meeting	Lesley		To complete by 3/1/10
2/9/10	City Policy subcommittee to schedule meeting	Andrea		To complete by 3/1/10
2/9/10	Review I&R website and update bios	All board members		

January Action Item update:

Item	Who	Completed	Comments
Send list of boards and commissions for board to select those to make recommendations	Roxana and Alaric	1/8/10	List sent-board to narrow down. Alaric to f/u with city staff
Resend announcement for I&R position vacancies for board to make recommendations	Roxana/Yemane I&R Board	1/9/10 Ongoing	
Draft letter inviting councilmembers to I&R meetings to be voted on at retreat	Lesley	1/29/10	
Review and reassign subcommittee members	I&R board @ retreat	Pending	
Complete I&R 2009 annual report	Yemane and I&R board @ retreat	Pending	

Send packet with retreat agenda and documents for review	Roxana/Yemane	1/27/09	
Review/revise bylaws regarding absences and medical leave	I&R board @ retreat	Pending	
Vote on board meeting start time	I&R board @ retreat	1/30/09	
Nominate/elect new co-chairs for board	I&R board @ retreat	1/30/09	
Make meal arrangements for retreat	Alaric and Yemane	1/30/09	
Meet with Councilmembers: Rasmussen, Clark, and O'Brien	Muhamed/Mengstab Halima/Yasemin Halima/Andrea	completed	Halima and Yasemin will reschedule with CM Clark

Brief Summary: The meeting begins with general announcements from board members. The board then reviewed action items from last month. Once sufficient board members were present, the board established quorum and approved the January meeting minutes as well as minutes from the annual board retreat. The board then reviewed possible new subcommittees and board member assignments. The board voted 3 subcommittees into action: Policy/Funding State and Federal, City Policy/Budget/Funding, and Ad Hoc Census 2010/Communications. Board members reported back on meetings with city councilmembers and city staff announced the applicants that have applied for board position vacancies. The board approved 6 city boards and commissions to make recommendations for and also approved endorsing the census 2010 Make Our Communities Count Campaign. Board members agreed that it is important to write a letter to the mayor stating stance on budget priorities. The board established agenda items to follow up on at next meetings and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda Items:

Announcements

- Devon- City of Seattle is looking for a new Chief of Police
 - City is holding 3 public meetings to gain community input on hiring police chief
 - First meeting is February 26th and language interpreters are available
- Cherry-Census 2010 is holding a public education forum on March 6th at New Holly (email announcement was also disseminated to board)
 - Suggests that board endorse census 2010 campaign
- Alaric-February 20th Lunar New Year Walkathon
 - Will email information about event to board
- Yemane-City is conducting 4 meetings on mayor's new Youth and Family Initiative
 - Mayor wants to hear from communities about priorities and is urging all to attend
 - Yemane will send fliers with details of meetings

Review of January Action Items

- See list above
- Letter has not been sent to mayor and city council because 2009 accomplishments have not been finalized
 - Board agrees to send letter without accomplishment
 - Roxana will send to Stella ASAP

Housekeeping

- Quorum for meeting is established
- Motion to approve January and retreat meeting minutes
 - Vote: all vote in favor of approving minutes-motion passes unanimously

Board Subcommittee Assignments

- Board members review potential subcommittees that were created during retreat
 - Only a few people signed up for a subcommittee during retreat
- Discussion to possibly only have two subcommittees: Policy/Funding State and Federal and City Policy/Budget/Funding
 - Suggestion to also have a temporary committee for issues of current concern such as Census 2010
- Neighborhood planning committee
 - Board members have not expressed interest in this committee therefore it might be eliminated
 - Yemane emphasizes that neighborhood planning is really important to immigrants

Other Suggestions:

- Possibly include CBO assessments within city subcommittee
- Vote on boards and commissions as a group not in subcommittees
 - Make a form letter and insert names for recommendations to different subcommittees
- Important to also address communications and visibility of I&R board
 - Input on information and monitoring of board website should be included in subcommittees
 - Possibly turn census committee into communications committee once census is complete
 - In meantime, look at website and review bios online-report to Roxana if changes need to be made
- Concern about if these subcommittees capture the issues that directly affect immigrant communities
 - CBO's funding is being cut and this impacts immigrant communities
 - letter advocating for budget priorities can be submitted and would fall under the city policy subcommittee

Subcommittee Assignments

- *City Policy*-Andrea, Devon, Halima, Alaric, Muhamed
 - Includes city funding
 - Recommendations for boards and commissions
- *Policy State and Federal*-Lesley, Cherry, Paulina. Muhamed, Yasemin
- *Ad-hoc Census 2010* -Alaric, Cherry, Jesus
 - will evolve into Website/Communications
- Board members who are not present will have input on what committees they want to serve on
- If there is any interest from board members about Neighborhood Planning this subcommittee will be added
- Devon-motion to enact subcommittees into action
 - Andrea second motions
 - Vote: all vote in favor of enacting subcommittees- Motion passes unanimously

- Board agrees to schedule subcommittee meetings prior to March board meeting
 - Andrea will convene City Policy Subcommittee, Lesley policy state and federal and Alaric Census 2010
 - Chairs of subcommittees will be elected at a later time

Bylaws

- Alaric and Paulina looked into bylaws regarding absences
 - Family leave needs to be added to list of bullets under excused absences
 - Alaric will update this and send to Roxana to include in packet to approve at next board meeting

Meetings with Councilmembers

- Muhamed and Mengstaeb met with CM Rasmussen
 - Gave him information on achievements for 2009 as well as goals for 2010
 - Suggested to invite King County Director of Transit to meeting to give him input on how metro affects immigrant communities and their needs
 - Discussed taxi ordinance issues for immigrant communities and city's rules and regulations that are being enforced on taxis
 - Gave some input on seawall
 - Verbally invited to board meeting and said board will follow up with letter
- Andrea and Halima met with CM O'Brien
 - Was interested in personal experiences of immigrants living in Seattle
 - Shared I&R workplan and gave a copy of the upcoming priorities
 - CM O'Brien's assistant was really interested in coming to I&R meeting
- Yasemin and Halima were scheduled to meet with Clark but meeting was cancelled
 - They will reschedule meeting through Lisa

Board Vacancies Recruitment Update

- Date for submission of applications closed on February 5th
- 7 candidates have applied
- Concern that there is not enough diversity on board and applicants may not fill this gap
 - Suggestion to reconsider opening applicant process
 - Yemane will see if this is an option
- Suggestion for applicants who are not accepted on board to be referred with recommendation from I&R Board to other boards and commissions

Board and Commissions

- Board reviews recommendations and agrees to make recommendations to 6 commissions: *Housing Levy Oversight Committee, Human Rights Commission, Seattle Planning Commission, Families & Education Levy Oversight Committee, Women's Commission, Seattle Housing Authority, Board of Commissioners*
 - Yemane will inquire about which commissions have current openings

Census 2010 Campaign

- Devon makes motion for board to endorse Make Our Community Count Campaign
 - Andrea seconds motion
 - 6 vote in favor, 1 abstained-motion passes

- Census subcommittee (Cherry, Alaric, and Jesus) will write press release announcing endorsement of census campaign by March 1st for various ethnic media

City Budget

- Suggestion to write letter to mayor to address city budget cuts and establish city budget priorities
 - Muhamed will draft letter and send to the board for review
 - Yemane will obtain budget schedule for 2010 planning timelines as well as budget meeting and verify city council head of the budget committee
- Board would also like to invite budget director to meeting
 - Yemane will invite to March or April meeting
 - Suggestion to wait for more information about budget before doing this
- Other issue is that immigrant communities are not represented at budget committees
 - Suggestion to make goal of 1 board member going to each budget committee hearing

Agenda Items for March Meeting

- Establish common ground on issues at next meeting
- Establish rapid response protocol to handle issues between meetings
- Create talent/resume bank categories
- Catch up on community issues

Meeting Adjourned