

OIRA Minutes 11_8_2012

Taken By: Sahar Fathi, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Present – Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Devon Abdallah, Mohammad Sheikh Hassan, Shree Ram Dahal, Andrea Caupain

Guest – Yasha Dahal

Present via Phone - Jesus Rodriguez

Absent – Michael Neguse

Welcome and Housekeeping

Ashraf will not be attending meetings.

Approve September and October Minutes

Devon asked for a motion to approve. Shree made motion to approve minutes, Tsegaba made a second. All voted in favor.

OIRA Report

Updated roster was circulated. Sahar will send letter out to group for final approval. Bylaws were circulated and they included disability and lgbt commission as well as old bylaws for the immigrant and refugee commission. Edits made on hard copy – name needs to be changed. Went through all the events coming in the community as well as the RSJI training. Sahar did talk a little bit about ethnic media because of conversations around Hurricane Sandy. Mohammad would like something on Seattle channel, as a way to respond to emergencies. Devon said commission would like to work on for city implementation. People might not have access to TV. Potential item for workplan.

Committee Report Back

Devon will have some draft of new bylaws for protocol committee by next week. Shree will connect with Devon about a survey and he emailed a list of community organizations. Women's commission did a survey and Sahar is trying to find a draft, actively working with women's commission. Assess what communities think commission should have in workplan, if they don't receive survey not a priority and commission will go forward with their plan. Tsegaba mentioned that the list of organizations from Shree would be a good starting point. Tsegaba will contact Ashraf to see if he would like to continue to work on this. Tsegaba and Shree will also "like" commission fan page so they can become admins. Bincy wondered if it was necessary to have two different pages.

Commission Update

Sahar gave update on the document. Jesus and Andy have to leave, Ashraf can't, Bincy moved, Cherry and Leno now work for city. More of the vacancies on the council side. There are 10. Application process closes November 10. November 12 internal staff will do brief review of applications, on mayor side there will be interviews and then recommendations. Intent is still first week of December for all appointments and reappointments.

Timeline + January Commission Meeting

Devon reviewed the timeline and discussed January RSJI training. Orientation will be half day on the weekend. First Tuesdays are meetings for next year. March full day retreat in lieu of commission meeting. Orientation hold for January 12, 10-2, lunch served and coffee. Options for end of year meeting – no one on the original planning meeting still part of commission. Decided to have meeting at

restaurant and to cancel December commission meeting. Open to public. Dec 4. Suggestions will be made over email.

Elect co-chair

Devon nominated Shree, MSH seconded, all agreed. Will start in February. In the interim will be trained.

Potential Survey on 2013 workplan

Can't find the old survey from women's commission. Devon proposed holding off until next year – Tsegaba was concerned it would delay work plan to do thoughtfully. They will work on a thoughtful and inclusive process for 2014. 2013 work plan is to come up with tool and ways to implement. Shree indicated we could communicate with community through established survey.

Announcements

Sahar discussed role of new volunteer, Julie, who will be working on refugees. Andrea has had foreign-born students ask if there is an organization that helps them groom for running for office. Sahar will send forward information.

Adjournment

Devon asked for everyone to review bylaws. Andrea will send her the bylaws for centerstone and solid ground. Aim to be done before orientation. Adjourned at 7:15.