

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

November 10, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, Maya Appiah, , N. Gina Aaftaab, , Karina San Juan-Guyton, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Karen Gamez, Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ilays Aden, Ankita Patel, Elrohi Shuge, Farhiya Mohamed

Commissioners Absent: Johnson Nguyen

Staff Present: Peggy Liao, Sonny Nguyen

Guests: Kimberly Horner

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs) Maria and Gina opened the meeting.

Action Taken:

- Welcomed the new Get Engaged commissioner – Elrohi Shuge
- October meeting minutes were approved.
- October special session minutes (10/22) were approved with four commissioners (Ankita, Maya, Elrohi and Shelani) abstaining due to their absence.
- The IRC discussed if they should write a separate letter in support of the Human Rights Commission Letter.
 - Co-chairs updated on the meeting with the Mayor’s office and Sonny forwarded the email from the mayor.
 - IRC decided not to write a separate letter and agreed to keep the communication with the mayor’s office. IRC can email the External Affairs Director Domonique and Sonny for requesting a meeting with the Mayor.
- The IRC decided not to respond to the person who sent a negative comment on the IRC’s decision of supporting Human Rights Commission’s Letter.
- Agreed to cancel the December IRC meeting.

African Community in Seattle

- Ilays and Emmanuel present the framework.
- This will be a separate group that Ilays and Emmanuel could provide support.
- Commissioners should be prepared to give feedback on the framework by the next meeting.
- More details will be shared at the retreat.

OIRA Report

- IRC would like to learn more about applicant demographics data such as:
 - How many applicants applied as an individual and how many as a family?
 - How many applicants were eligible?

Retreat Discussion

- Discussed format, framework, and possible guest speakers for this year’s retreat.

- Agreed to use the remaining budget \$1,350 to hire external facilitators for the retreat.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned and went into executive session at 8:00 pm