

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

March 2nd, 2021 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, N. Gina Aaftaab, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ankita Patel, Johnson Nguyen, Amanda Sandoval, Ilays Aden, Elrohi Shuge

Commissioners Absent: Karen Gamez, Farhiya Mohamed, Bao-Tram Do,

Staff Present: Peggy Liao, José Vasquez, Sonny Nguyen

Guests: n/a

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

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

Action Taken:

- Feb regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes were approved.
- José shared February OIRA report. Sonny shared that the Mayor's office and SPD are hosting a discussion for participatory budgeting.
- Community announcement
 - King County Metro is getting community feedback and would love to hear from the community.
 - White Center Community Development Association is looking for interpreters to staff a community vaccination event
 - There are important efforts to ensure that undocumented immigrants are included in economic recovery on the state level. Check out this blog: <https://budgetandpolicy.org/schmudget/our-states-recovery-must-include-immigrant-communities/>

Co-chair report

- 5 commission updates.
- King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission sent out a [survey](#) to community to help determine focused areas for their work. The IRC discussed if they would like to conduct a survey research and how to compensate people for their time and input.

Subcommittee group breakouts and report out

- Economic recovery
 - Write to legislators and work with agencies such as Department of Health and Commerce (potentially working with other counties)
 - Addressing impact on undocumented populations
 - Extending vaccination eligibility definition for essential workers
- Health recovery
 - Help disseminate accurate information about vaccine
 - Connecting with the City interdepartmental group that addresses digital equity

- Reach out to DOH to learn more about their vaccine distribution plan in the immigrant and refugee communities.

Next steps

Adjourn

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