

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

July 6th, 2021 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, N. Gina Aaftaab, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ilays Aden, Karina San Juan, Ankita Patel, Farhiya Mohamed, Johnson Nguyen, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo

Commissioners Absent: Amanda Sandoval, Bao-Tram Do, Elrohi Shuge

Staff Present: Peggy Liao, Luanda Arai

Guests: Cuc Vu

Call to Order: 6:04 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs) – Shelani and Gina opened the meeting and the group did a check-in.

Action Taken:

- Luanda introduced herself as the new Community Outreach & Program Specialist, and the new staff for the Commission.
- The IRC approved the May and June meeting.
- Luanda shared the May OIRA report.

Conversation with Cuc Vu, OIRA Director

- Cuc provided context of OIRA's national profile, the role of the Commission in establishing the office, and a brief explanation of what to expect with the mayoral transition in 2022. She asked for reflections on how OIRA can support the IRC's work, and align it with OIRA's annual goals and work plan. Committee members shared topics and processes they would like to learn more about.

Co-chair report and action items

- Governance & Education Committee (G&EC) presentation on Tue, June 8th, at 2 pm.
 - Gina reported back on the presentation to the committee.
- The Five Commissions Candidate Forums
 - Commissioners will submit questions for candidates
 - Commissioners will help spread the word about the forums
- Mid-year Check in on Annual Commitments
 - Gina will facilitate planning for an IRC social gathering
 - Commissioners volunteered to review new commissioner applications and participate in interviews
 - Commissioners will sign up to take notes at upcoming meetings
 - OIRA staff will help line up a rotation of speakers from City departments for future IRC meetings.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 7:58 pm. There was no executive session.