

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
September 7th, 2021 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ilays Aden, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Karina San Juan, Ankita Patel, N. Gina Aaftaab, Bao-Tram Do

Commissioners Absent: Amanda Sandoval, Elrohi Shuge, Farhiya Mohamed

Staff Present: Luanda Arai, Sonny Nguyen

Guests: Seattle Parks and Recreation representatives: Danyal Lofti, Selena Elmer, Marlon Herrera

Call to Order: 6:07 pm

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

Action Taken:

- Commissioners approved July and August meeting minutes.
- Pending a review of the final letter, the Commission voted in favor of signing onto a letter to the State Department from the LGBTQ Commission, supporting Ghanaian LGBTQ activists.
- Karina committed to attending at least part of the monthly WAISN meetings. Emmanuel also expressed interest in attending.
- Karina committed to drafting a letter to Seattle City Council to advocate for emergency funding to support Afghan refugees being resettled locally.
- Luanda shared the June OIRA report.

Listening Session with Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Representatives from Seattle Parks and Recreation presented the department's strategic plan and gathered feedback from Commissioners.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:03 pm. There was no executive session.