



Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2017

Present: Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Karin Lin, Melanie Torres, Leslie DiTrani, Jennifer Sparks, Roxana Maldonado-Garcia, and Swati Sawant.

Absent: Commissioners Sana Ghafoor, Yarlennys Villaman, and Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo

CIRC Staff: Nancy Schlacter and Crystal Rosa

Documents used:

- May Minutes
- June Agenda
- Draft of Needs Assessment

1. Call to order

Executive Director Schlacter called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Speakers from Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC)

CISC representatives described their efforts in creating a coalition of local churches to offer sanctuary to persons seeking to avoid ICE detention and deportation.

4. Review and approval of May Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the May meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Macedo, seconded by Commissioner Torres.

5. Executive Director's Report

- The Cambridge Library hosted a KYR, led by Attorneys Daniel Santiago, Jill Santiago, and Deirdre Giblin. Attorneys Swati Sawant and Jill Hwang also assisted. There were 77 attendees, including human services staff and local immigrant-serving non-profits.
- CIRC coordinated a 6/14/17 KYR at Cambridge Housing Authority, led by Attorney Daniel Santiago, for a group of 20 property managers. A second KYR by Attorney Santiago is scheduled at CHA for 6/21/17.
- ED Schlacter is coordinating a series of KYRs with the Alliance for Cambridge Tenants and Cambridge Housing Authority for dates tbd in the fall.
- There were 47 applicants for the Outreach Referral Specialist. Three CIRC Commissioners, 1 CIRC staff person, 1 CHRC staff person, and the Executive Director of the DV Initiative reviewed the applications and narrowed down the list to 8 interviewees. The interview panel focused on 2 finalists after the interviews. Once their references clear, ED will make a recommendation to the City Manager for approval.

6. May Meeting Follow Up

• Screening Referral Clinic

Although CLSACC has offered to host the Screening Referral Clinic at their new site, the City Manager expressed a preference for the site to be a city building. The Community Learning Center has classroom space for individual consultation meeting rooms, but has significant programming during the hours when the clinic would/could be held; the School Department may be interested in assisting with space. ED Schlacter will scout possible venue options and will report to the Commission and City Manager. The Law Dept. is involved in identifying and arranging for experienced Supervising Immigration Attorney(s) to oversee the volunteer attorneys with more limited immigration experience. As previously discussed, due to the Anti-Aid Amendment in the MA Declaration of Rights, the City cannot pay for legal counsel to individuals, but may be able to fund supervision of volunteer attorneys.

• Feedback from RiverFest outreach tabling

More people approached the table at mid-day. Many of them asked how they could help the commission, and there was interest in volunteer work. Commissioner Lin suggested the creation of an email list serve for interested residents.

• LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers

This event is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 at the Cambridge Public Library. ED Schlacter has coordinated with 2 Attorneys, Lisa Weinberg of CLSACC and Stefanie Fisher of Araujo & Fisher. ED Schlacter will follow up with Bill Barnert from the LGBTQ+ Cmsn regarding CIRC's further involvement with the planning subcommittee.

• September Meeting

The members of the Commission voted to move future meeting dates to the fourth Thursday of each month and it was approved unanimously on a motion from Commissioner DiTrani, seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

7. Review Needs Assessment

ED Schlacter drafted a report narrative for the Needs Assessment and distributed to the Commission. The members of the Commission were encouraged to reach out with their edits once they review the report.

8. Election of a Chair

ED Schlacter encouraged the members of the Commission to consider nominating someone or themselves for Chair or Vice-Chair in the fall. The Chair helps coordinate the agenda, reaches out to the Commissioners about possible agenda items, identifies speakers, and facilitates the meetings. ED Schlacter explained that the Commission should govern themselves and hold an election in September when we start the meetings again.

• Immigrant Welcoming Event – Fall 2017/TBD

The members of the Commission voted to prioritize setting up the Legal Clinics over planning a Welcoming Event; it was approved unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Macedo. The Commission decided to wait until the September mtg, to follow up on the progress of the Screening Referral Clinic, before discussing a possible Welcoming Event in the fall.

- **Welcome Sign**

The members of the Commission were encouraged to submit any visual inspiration they have for a welcome poster similar to the ones that have been popping up around Cambridge. ED Schlacter suggested that the Commission could have their own version of a sign for promotion and awareness of Cambridge's dedication to being a welcoming city.

Commissioner Sparks moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Torres.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.