



Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 30, 2017

Present: Commissioners Leslie DiTrani, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, Karin Lin, Nick Lopez-Cortes, Marcio Macedo, Roxanna Maldonado-Garcia, Elena Chopyak, Merline Sylvain-Williams, and Yarlennys Villaman and CIRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, and CIRC Staff Crystal Rosa

Absent: Commissioners Jennifer Sparks, Melanie Torres; Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

1. Call to order

Co-Chair DiTrani called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. Public comment:

Emmanuel Lusardi, a volunteer for the Vice Mayor's Office, described his work on State and Municipal legislation regarding immigrant voting rights and outreach.

3. Welcome

The Commission welcomed new member Elena Chopyak.

4. Review and approval of September Minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes. Commissioner Macedo noted correction that the minutes misidentified the election of the Co-Chairs as Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Lin moved to approve them and Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo seconded.

5. Executive Directors Report

• **Discussion about Legal Screening Clinic status**

The date for the first legal screening clinic was finalized today (November 30). The City of Cambridge has entered into agreements with MLAC and CLSACC to fund the legal clinic. The screening clinics will be managed by a CLSACC Supervising Attorney, with volunteer attorneys who have been vetted by CLSACC providing individual consultations. The first clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2017 from 5:15-7:15 pm, thereafter the clinics will occur every third Wednesday of the month. CLSACC will be hosting the clinic in their new space located on the lower level of 47 Thorndike Street. CIRC staff has designed a flyer for the first clinic which will need to be revised to include clinic dates for 2018. Members of the Commission provided edits for the flyer. CIRC staff will have a better idea how CIRC members can volunteer during future clinics, after the first clinic. Clients will have up to 30 minutes with a volunteer immigration attorney to receive a limited consultation and screening. These sessions will serve as a referral clinic where immigrants meet with an experienced immigration attorney who will refer them to appropriate immigration legal services or fee for service immigration attorneys.

• **Feedback on LGBTQ+/CIRC Asylum Seekers event**

Members of the Commission stated there was too much food at the event. The presentations were interesting and there seemed to be more allies than immigrant people present.

• **December meeting reminder**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 21. CIRC staff counted how many members would be present and determined that there would be a quorum.

• **Discussion on Haitian TPS resources and notario scammers**

ED Schlacter received an email from a member of the public asking if there were any resources to distribute to the public regarding TPS and warning about scammers. Specifically, if any of these resources could be found in Haitian Creole. CIRC members recommended distributing information already compiled by MIRA. CIRC members will submit their recommendations to ED Schlacter for review. CIRC staff will forward the information to the person who reached out.

- **Outreach in Public Schools**

ED Schlacter described some of the efforts that Immigrant Resource Liaison (IRL) Wabeto has taken to integrate outreach with the public schools and provided a written summary prepared by IRL Wabeto. When she is present at the next meeting, IRL Wabeto will provide more information and ideas for the Commission on ways the members can help. ED Schlacter provided the Commission a copy of the script IRL Wabeto uses when she is connecting with the community.

6. New Business

- **Communications Subcommittee:**

- Elevator pitch – Commissioner Lopez-Cortes explained that he is still developing this idea and will report at the next meeting.
- Social media/public outreach – Facebook vs. Find It Cambridge
- CIRC staff explained their conversation about a Facebook page with the Director of Communications and their conclusion to post CIRC events on Find It Cambridge. CIRC staff will look into creating an email list serve using Constant Contact.
- Commission Business Cards – CIRC staff will work on making a generic card for the Commission to help CIRC members' outreach efforts

- **Goals & Ideas brainstorm for 2018**

- Commissioner DiTrani – legal services, welcoming event, school connection
- Commissioner Macedo – decide on 1 issue to become charter
- Commissioner Chopyak – responsive to community needs
- Commissioner Maldonado-Garcia – DACA students, provide information to guidance counselors and school staff. Commissioner DiTrani made a motion to hold information sessions for school staff regarding services for DACA students, seconded by Commissioner Macedo, and approved unanimously. DACA student info sub-committee formed: Commissioners DiTrani, Epstein-Santoyo, Villaman, Maldonado-Garcia, Sylvain-Williams to review an outline of presentation at the January meeting.
- Commissioner Villaman – PSA class with CCTV about CIRC or KYR. Interested members formed a sub-committee: Villaman, Sylvain-Williams, Chopyak.
- Commissioner Lin – how can we demonstrate that Cambridge is a welcoming city and there is no room for hate in Cambridge.
- Commissioner Sylvain-Williams – Welcoming event, call for more visuals around the city providing information that immigrants may not know
- Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo – Welcoming event, DACA student information sessions
- Commissioner Lopez-Cortes – culturally competent communications to the public

- **Open Meeting Law training**

Commissioner DiTrani moved to have a representative from the Law Department provide Open Meeting Law training at the December meeting and Commissioner Sylvain-Williams seconded. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

- **Topics for next month's agenda**

- 'Elevator Pitch' on CIRC for outreach
- Demographics presentation by CDD – which mtg?
- Immigrant Family Preparedness trainings?
- Non-citizenship voting movement
- USCIS Library Outreach, something we're interested in?

- **Welcoming Event**

- CLC not interested in integrating a Welcoming Event with their preexisting event. Welcoming Event sub-committee formed: Yarlennys, Melanie, Marcio, Merline. CIRC will discuss at the next meeting.