



Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2018

Present: Commissioners Leslie DiTrani, Marcio Macedo, Roxanna Maldonado-Garcia, Karin Lin, Nick Lopez-Cortes, Elena Chopyak, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Jennifer Sparks, Melanie Torres and CIRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, Crystal Rosa and Tagesech Wabeto

Absent: Commissioners Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo and Yarlennys Villaman

1. Call to order

Co-Chair Marcio called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Public comment:

No public comment.

3. Review and approval of December Minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes. Commissioner Sparks moved to approve them with corrections and Co-Chair DiTrani seconded.

4. Executive Directors Report

ED Schlacter briefed the commission on the second legal screening clinic that occurred on Wednesday, January 17, 2017. There were 5 Volunteer Attorneys and 14 individuals who used the Legal Screening Clinic that evening. A commission member suggested that sandwich boards would make navigating the area easier to indicate the location of the accessible entrance. Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) has committed to providing interpretation free of charge and has asked if the volunteer attorneys can follow up with CHA providers with their patient's next steps. Commissioners discussed possible approaches to this, including having volunteer attorneys provide the individual seeking legal assistance with notes after the consultation. CHA patient/clients could then provide those notes to their social worker, if they desire. ED Schlacter will reach out to CLSACC to discuss this approach. Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto assisted with childcare, as no DHSP childcare workers were available for the January clinic. Commissioner Sylvain-Williams offered to follow up with DHSP regarding childcare for future clinics. Commission members self-identified whether they have been CORI- checked, obtained First Aid/CPR training, and their language skills. CIRC staff will collect this information to help with having all skills available for each clinic, in support of childcare.

5. New Business

• **DACA/Financial Aid presentations for CRLS staff**

Commissioner Maldonado-Garcia started to explain the presentation for DACA/Financial Aid information, when discussion ensued about a related event at CRLS on January 30 regarding TPS. A member from the working group will attend the event on January 30 for additional information. Commissioner DiTrani explained that CIRC's presentation is focused on providing resources for guidance counselors about college applications and financial aid.

• **Immigrant Family Preparedness trainings**

ED Schlacter has met with the City Manager regarding CIRC's interest in using materials prepared by PAIR/MLRI to coordinate family preparedness trainings in the event of a parent/guardian's detention or deportation. This training would be geared to social service staff, perhaps through the Cambridge Health Alliance, to help families prepare necessary paperwork regarding what steps are to be taken if ICE detains parents/guardians. ED Schlacter is waiting for approval from the Law Department regarding providing these trainings. ED Schlacter

reached out to the School Department to gauge their interest and her contact at CPSD said the topic will be placed on their agenda for discussion.

- **'Elevator Pitch' on CIRC for outreach**

The working group is in progress. Commissioners Macedo, Sylvain-Williams and Chopyak expressed interest in helping to create the pitch.

- **Social Media/Public Outreach**

After discussing using Constant Contact for a newsletter with the City's Director of Communications, Project Coordinator Rosa learned that it was best to collect emails first before opening an account with Constant Contact because of the cost involved.

- **Generic Business Cards for Commissioners**

Updating business card design with edits is in progress.

- **PSAs for CIRC**

This is on hold for Spring.

- **Demographics presentation by CDD**

Members of the commission were satisfied with the presentation by the City Demographer that was sent to them through email. Co-Chair DiTrani announced that she would begin recording the meeting for her notes.

- **Review of Goals**

Co-Chair DiTrani listed the goals discussed at the November meeting. Commissioner Lopez-Cortes volunteered to review the Needs Assessment and create a one-page summary to help align the interests expressed by members of the commission with those expressed through the Needs Assessment process.

- **Immigrant Welcoming Event – Subcommittee Report**

During a discussion of possible ways to incorporate art into the programming of the Welcome Event, a Commissioner suggested a large installation that could promote Cambridge as welcoming city. The commission agreed to invite a representative of the Arts Council to see what the process would be and how the two groups could collaborate. Possible dates for the Welcome Event are Saturdays, May 12 or May 19, from 11-3 pm. Project Coordinator Rosa will confirm with the Public Services coordinator at the Main Library.

- **Non-citizenship local voting movement**

The commission decided against the topic because it was not one of the topics to arise from the Needs Assessment.

- **USCIS Library Outreach**

After some discussion among the members of the commission, CIRC agreed that outreach with USCIS would not be a good fit for the community.

Commissioner Sparks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Chopyak.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, Feb 22, 2018 in the Large Conference Rm on the 2nd Flr at 6 pm.