



Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020

Present: Co-Chair Karin Lin and Co-Chair Karim Razzaz, Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Tsamchoe Dolma, Ashebir Gezmu, Aleksandra Ibrahim, Subandha Karmacharya and Jen Sparks and CIRC Staff: Executive Director Nancy Schlacter, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

Absent:
Commissioners Ana Mejia, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo and Elizabeth Badger

1. Call to order:

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

2. Public comment

Member of the public, Jean Baptiste, was present and stated he was interested to hear what the commission was going to do in the new year.

3. Review and approval of December minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the December 12 meeting. The Commission held off from approving the minutes until edits were fixed. Minutes from the December meeting will be readdressed at the February meeting.

4. New Business

- **Outreach at Global Arts Live**

Since CIRC does not have a social media presence, Commissioners are encouraged to use their social media to help promote the events. ISL Wabeto will be managing the outreach table on Feb. 2 for the Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert at Saunders Theater. Commissioner Badger will be managing the outreach table on March 8 during the Red Baraat concert at the Sinclair. Commissioners Dolma and Karmacharya will work the outreach table during the Zakir Hussain concert at the Saunders Theater on April 12.

- **“Imagine Your Story,” Cambridge Public Library Event**

ISL Wabeto explained that the event seeks to explore the idea of identity and how it relates to the life of children through activities. Details are still being developed. ISL Wabeto explained that she will be doing a matching game using country flags with a group of kindergarten students. The event is meant to foster community engagement between children and the City.

- **2020 Scheduling**

November and December 2020 meeting dates fall on holidays. The Commission agreed to combine the meetings into one date. The Nov/Dec combo meeting will be held on December 10, 2020.

5. Executive Director’s (ED) report

According to the data from the legal screening clinic, CIRC and De Novo have served a total of 233 clients. The data also showed that the majority of clients live within the Greater Boston Area and are from Central American and African countries. ED Schlacter passed out a handout from the MIRA Coalition about supporting the Safe Communities Act, which, if passed, would result in MA becoming a Sanctuary State. ED Schlacter encouraged members of the Commission to call their legislators about the Act. There will be a hearing on the proposed legislation at the Statehouse on Friday, January 24 at 11 AM.

6. Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto Report

ISL Wabeto attended Building an Equity Bridge by Cambridge Public Schools, which is working on racial equity by removing/addressing ongoing institutional and structural barriers. ISL Wabeto and ED Schlacter attended a workshop about encouraging immigrants to participate in the census. Although the census does not ask a question about immigrants/immigration, people still fear that it will and may opt-out of participating. States

may lose representation if the census does not capture an accurate count of residents. There is ongoing recruitment for people to become census takers. ISL Wabeto will attend a training called Math Matters for Equity. ISL Wabeto announced that Cambridge Public School Department created an English Learner Advisory Council (ELPAC) for parents with children who speak another language. ISL Wabeto will be presenting at the Amigos School in March about the cultural differences of each CET worker's immigrant community to Amigos school administrators and teachers.

7. Ongoing Business

Goal setting for CIRC 2020

Each member of the Commission stated their interests for the year:

- Coordinate Family Preparedness training. Have attorneys present at non-City government locations
- Content creation for a newsletter, online platform, or social media which is easier to translate with Google app.
- Commissioner biographies on the website
- Improve engagement with CPS/school family liaisons/newsletters – how to support parents about their child's experience in school
- Learn more about the Bridge Equity Program/social justice committee
- Identify community partners
- Outreach to local health centers for tabling
- Know Your Rights on worker's rights and undocumented workers who are exploited
- Work with churches on family mobility act

8. Future Projects

CIRC staff will send the Commission the brainstorm list created in the meeting along with 3 questions to help with each member rank their priorities to help with short term and long-term planning.

Co-Chair Lin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Karmacharya.

The next commission meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 6 pm in the Large Conference Room.