



Regular Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Present: Co-Chairs Karin Lin, Karim Razzaz, Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Ashebir Gezmu, Arantxa Ortiz, Jen Sparks, and Elizabeth Badger

CIRC Staff: Interim Executive Director Jennifer Mathews, and Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Absent: Commissioners Subandha Karmacharya, Aleksandra Ibrahim, Ana Mejia, Tsamchoe Dolma and Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

1. Call to order:

Co-Chair Lin called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Public comment

No public present at the start of the virtual meeting. There was no public comment.

3. Review and approval of June 24, 2021 minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Ortiz moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Sparks seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Election of a New Chair

Co-Chair Lin explained that the election of a Chair is usually in January but given the pandemic both Co-Chairs Lin and Razzaz agreed to stay on until the Summer. Co-Chair Lin stated that she would be able to continue to chair until end of the year with an election in January. The Commission discussed whether they should vote to accept Co-Chair Lin's proposal or wait until September when more members could attend the meeting. Commissioner Macedo suggested to continue with the approval. Commissioner Sparks nominated Chair Lin to continue until January, Marcio seconded, and it was accepted unanimously by the Commission.

5. Discuss outreach opportunities

IED Mathews explained that there is a tentative date for Danehy Park Day for Oct 16. The organizers are waiting to see what happens with COVID. IED Mathews discussed the outreach opportunity with the organizers and was told that they would love for the Commission to table, decorate with the flags, banners, other welcoming signs. Danehy Park day is an all-day event. Staff will coordinate two shifts and will confirm the date by Sept 1st. Commission Members Sparks, Lin and Razzaz may be available to help outreach that day.

PC Rosa informed the Commissioners about the Summer Food Program and Screen on the Green Family Movie Nights being organized by the Department of Human Services Programs. PC Rosa will find if the organizers are open to members of the Commission conducting outreach during the programming.

IED Mathews explained that the Central Square Library had reached out to conduct a Know Your Rights training for the patrons who visit the library. CIRC staff will coordinate the KYR after meeting with the library to learn more about their vision.

6. Cambridge De Novo Legal Screening Clinic

The data regarding how many clients were served at the virtual legal clinic is not yet available. There were 5 volunteer attorneys available to take hotline calls in July. CIRC and De Novo usually serve 25 clients at each virtual clinic. De Novo is not sure when they will resume in person clinics.

7. Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto Report

IED Mathews explained that ISL Wabeto was absent because she is at the Reservoir Church Soccer Night conducting outreach. ISL Wabeto attended Cambridge Rise (Recurring Income for Success) Project for in-depth information about the pilot program. The Community Outreach Team met for the first time in 15 months before taking their annual leave. The outreach workers spent some time reviewing the Cambridge Rise application with the CET Co-Lead, Lindsay Diaz. ISL Wabeto continues to engage with many communities about a variety of resources in and around Cambridge.

Ongoing Business

Strategic planning

The working groups have not been able to meet. Nothing new to report. Commissioner Badger informed that there may be news regarding TPS registration for Haitians soon. PC Rosa informed the Commission of her on-going work in Language Justice. PC Rosa has devoted many hours with assisting the Family Policy Council conduct focus groups with different language communities, research different software and tools for language accessibility, and draft a plain language guide.

Commissioner Macedo moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

The next commission meeting will be on Thursday, Sept 23, 2021, at 6 pm via a Virtual Zoom meeting.