



Regular Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, June 27, 2023

Present: Commissioners Karin Lin, Maximus De Medici, Debbie Klein, Tsamchoe Dolma, Karim Razzaz, Vanessa Sarmiento, Ana Mejia

CIRC Staff: Language Access Manager Crystal Rosa and Director of Operations Sarah Binney

Absent: Chairs Abishek Raman and Jennifer Sparks. Immigrant Services Liaison Tagasech Wabeto.

1. Call to order

Language Access Manager (LAM) Rosa called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Public comment

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

3. Introductions – Director of Operations, Sarah Binney. New Commissioners Debbie Klein, Maximus De Medici, Vanessa Sarmiento

3. Review and approval of October 25, 2022 minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the October 25, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Lin moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Dolma seconded.

4. Old Business – Welcome Event

The Welcome Event happened 3 times before the pandemic to welcome Cambridge's immigrant community. It mostly reached those already connected to city services and library events.

This year, the goal is to create an event that is co-created by immigrant communities, instead of being on behalf of the community. The Community Engagement Team outreach workers, who represent 7 linguistic/ cultural communities in Cambridge, would plan the event with support from the commission staff. The CET workers would engage the community in every step of the planning including program content, outreach, and logistics.

The planning process will be slow to ensure that it is done right with full community input. The goal would be to have the event next May, with planning with the CET team starting in September, and many opportunities for CIRC commissioner feedback. Commissioner Sarmiento asked about how the events are advertised. LAM Rosa explained the use of contact lists, outreach to individuals and communities by the CET, and outreach to businesses by the Economic Development Department. Commissioner Mejia suggested reaching out to daycares, school providers, and parents.

5. New Business

A. New Commissioner Recruitment

There are still 2 vacancies on the commission. We are hoping to work with CET to get the word out in communities to fill vacancies. Commissioner Sarmiento asked to submit ideas on different outreach opportunities.

B. Pathway for Immigrant Workers – 2023 Information Sessions

Leslie Ditrani, a Cambridge-based immigration lawyer, started a nonprofit called Pathway for Immigrant Workers to assist employers in sponsoring employees with work authorization to become permanent residents. CIRC is coordinating quarterly clinics with Mayor's Office. The next Cambridge session is August 2nd at the main library.

C. Hiatus for July and August

Commissioner Sarmiento moved to go on hiatus till September and Commissioner Dolma seconded. The motion was approved. Commissioner Lin proposed a social event for commissioners during the summer hiatus and offered to host it. Commissioner De Medici will help with the planning.

D. Business cards

Commissioner De Medici asked about business cards. Commissioners can coordinate with DOO Binney to pick up cards at the office or receive cards in the mail.

Commented [RC1]: Did you follow up with the Commissioners about this? Do we have enough business cards?

6. Staff Updates

A. Department Collaborations

LAM Rosa is now on the Hazard Mitigation Planning team. This team plans for natural disaster response. They want to get diverse voices involved in the planning process. Anyone looking to get involved should reach out to croso@cambridgema.gov.

B. Cambridge De Novo Legal Clinic

The monthly legal immigration clinic in partnership with De Novo will continue to be fully virtual. Those in need of immigration legal aid can find more information on the [CIRC homepage](#)

C. Work and Family Mobility Act

The Work and Family Mobility Act will be in effect on July 1st, 2023. This act allows undocumented residents of Massachusetts to apply for driver's licenses. DOO Binney will be creating a news alert for the CIRC website with more information.

D. Rise Up Cambridge

Rise Up Cambridge is an initiative using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide monthly cash aid for Cambridge families earning at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Those interested can apply at <https://www.cambridgema.gov/riseup> or can call the Rise Up support team at 617-812-5124.

7. Adjournment

- A.** Commissioner Sarmiento moved for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Razzaz seconded. Approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

The next commission meeting will be on September 26th at 6 PM.