



## **Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Monday, October 13, 2014 6:30pm**  
**Terrazas Branch Library Room #B**  
**1105 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, Texas, 78702**  
***Approved Regular Meeting Minutes***

*The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a Regular meeting on Monday, October 13, 2014, at Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E Cesar Chavez St. Room #B, Austin, Texas.*

<i>Members Present</i>	<i>Members Absent</i>
<i>Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Peter Shen, Chair</i>
<i>Mark Hand</i>	<i>Pranav Parekh</i>
<i>Sandra Molinari</i>	<i>Nancy Lira</i>
<i>Julius Okelo</i>	

*Note taker: Edna Staniszewski*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Angela-Jo Touza-Medina called meeting to order at 6.30pm.
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**
  - None
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 2014**
  - Commissioner Sandra Molinari made a motion to accept the September 2014 meeting minutes.
  - Commissioner Mark Hand seconded the motion.
  - September 2014 meeting minutes approved on a 4-0-0 vote.
- 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
  - Chair
    - Commissioner Angela-Jo Touza-Medina nominated herself as Chair.
    - Commissioner Mark Hand seconded the nomination.
    - Commissioner Angela-Jo Touza-Medina elected chair on a 4-0-0 vote.

- Vice Chair
  - Commissioner Julius Okelo nominated Mark Hand for Vice-Chair.
  - Commissioner Angela-Jo Touza-Medina seconded the nomination.
  - Commissioner Mark Hand elected Vice-Chair on a 4-0-0 vote.

## 5. **NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

### A. **Commission Workload**

- After some discussion on the Commissioners workload, it was agreed the volume is appropriate and manageable if spread out a little more.

### B. **Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission**

- Sent out an invitation to our Commission to present at their meeting.
- Ben Ramirez from the Economic Dept accompanied the Chair to update the Hispanic Quality of Life Commission on the issues being addressed by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs, in particular, the Austin: Welcoming City Initiative. The Hispanic Quality of Life Commission expressed an interest in becoming engaged in this process. The how they will become engaged is still pending.

### C. **Welcoming America Call**

- Mark Clayton Hand and Angela-Jo Touza-Medina had a conference call with Welcoming America to discuss the Austin: Welcoming City Initiative and will hopefully be able to have one of their representatives attend the February summit.

## 6. **OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

### A. **Welcoming City Initiative Update**

- Contract has been signed between HHSD and Caritas of Austin, so that the latter is acting as fiscal agent for the Initiative. Execution of the contract is pending.
- Next steps:
  1. Immigrant focus tool and guidelines ready by Wednesday.
  2. The survey tools ready by the 30<sup>th</sup> and then submit.
  3. Book location in November.
  4. Once location booked then we can solidify the agenda.
- Commission does not have a budget for travel arrangements but Angela-Jo Touza-Medina is looking into different resources.
- Closeout will contain the information and data collected from the focus groups.

### B. **Review of September 17, 2014 – One Human Race – Welcoming America Festival at AARC**

- The Economic Development Department in collaboration with the Commission on Immigrant Affairs launched the Austin: Welcoming City Initiative with a networking event and cultural festival which convened individuals of different backgrounds to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and native residents.

**C. Municipal ID Card Community Engagement Session**

- Tentative meeting date: October 20, 2014
- Primary focus is to implement a multifunctional ID card that improves safety and access for immigrants to interact in local communities. Card access would allow an array of essential services such as the following:
  1. Capital Metro card
  2. Personal ID
  3. Debit card
  4. Not as a voter card

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Next meeting on Monday, November 10, 2014 (Location: TBD)

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:**

- A. Adopt the 2015 Meeting Calendar.
- B. Distribution of tasks among Commissioners.
- C. Next Steps – Contacting other Commissions or entities to partner up as part of the Welcoming City Initiative:
- Asian American Quality of Life Commission.
  - Email Angela-Jo Touza-Medina a list of other Commissions.
- D. Executive Action
- E. Entrepreneurship

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm by Vice-Chair Angela-Jo Touza-Medina.

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