



Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2019 6:30 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers
301 W. 2nd St., Austin, Texas 78701

Approved Meeting Minutes

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CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2019, September 2019

A. Not reviewed. Will be reviewed at next meeting, November 4, 2019.

3. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- A. Presentation by Houmma Garba and Binh Ly regarding the “Serving Austin’s Immigrant Community” report
- Provided explanatory report on current services with immigrant community in Austin. Recommendation is to provide staffing exclusively for Immigration Affairs to serve as a liaison. To be housed in the Equity Office.
- B. Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer, and Amanda Jasso, Equity Office Program Manager, to discuss the Immigrant Affairs Specialist position and obtain the Commission’s input on the preferred skills and qualifications for that position
- Elaborated on recommendation of new proposed city staff in the Equity Office. Requested feedback on scope of work and preferred qualifications of the position.
 - Working group created to provide additional feedback and assistance in interviews.
 - Commissioners in the working group are Karen, Krystal, Montserrat, Joseph and Nicole.
- C. Vote on 2020 meeting schedule
- No objections to continuing current schedule of meeting on the first Monday of every month. Meeting in September 2020 will be on the second Monday of the month
 - - Glenn Rosales moves to approve this schedule and Adrian De La Rosa seconds. Vote was all present in favor, with Kate not present

4. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- A. Report back from Cities for Action National Convening – Karen
- Karen shared of other city practices, utilizing different models but experiencing similar issues. Suggestion made to that City of Austin’s own Immigration Affairs should coordinate with other cities.
- B. Update on information about possibly becoming a QoL commission
- Reached out to Murillo. City Clark proposed bylaw change to commission structure. Krystal will reach out to Stephanie Hall for clarification.

5. STANDING ITEMS: Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Cities United for Immigration Action Update – Sam
- Covered under Karen’s update on Cities for Action National Convening
- B. Joint Inclusion Commission Update, including update on Equity Mini Grants – Karen
- Everyone has the Google link for reviewing and scoring the grants. Deadline is October 18th.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Refugee Services of Texas approached Karen regarding working together with the commission on becoming a Certified Welcoming City
- Hispanic Quality of Life – APD forum on treatment of immigrants, TBD, Karen will notify

8. TASKS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Karen will forward the Welcoming Report and the packet about becoming a Certified Welcoming City to commissioners
- Krystal will follow up with the City Clerk's office about Quality of Life designation
- Immigrant Affairs Officer workgroup will meet (Krystal, Karen, Joseph, Montserrat, Nicole)
- Commissioners will respond ASAP to the Equity Office survey
- Karen will invite RAICES for our November meeting
- Montserrat will invite Casa Marianella for our December meeting
- Karen will email Brandon Kroos about questions on the equity mini grants scoring process

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- RAICES presentation
- Casa Marianella presentation
- Summer camps, bilingual/dual languages needed
- Texas Refugee Services collaboration on Certified Welcoming

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm by Karen Crawford

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