

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>: <u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>: <u>GUESTS/CITIZENS</u>:

Jennifer Nguyen, Chair Martha Melaku, Vice-Chair Mayor Douglas Athas

Deo Sookdeo Dorothy Brooks Kaushalya Siriwardana Hubert Hartin

Minerva Moreno Janet L. Bridges <u>STAFF PRESENT:</u> Priscilla Wilson

Susie Rutherford Cheryl Ziriax

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Nguyen.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Susie; second by Deo to approve the June 20, 2013 meeting minutes; approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

None.

Mayor Douglas Athas Comments:

Mayor Douglas Athas shared briefly with those present that he's been very busy; the City is in a good position and has an updated 30-year plan. The Council, five years ago, was evaluating what they would like to accomplish when the recession is over. Other cities are envious of the professional staff that is employed by Garland. The City had no surprises during the recession. The Mayor envisions growth for our City. He has also met with several cities in the area (Sachse, Rowlett, Mesquite, and Wylie) to consider a regional development plan.

The Mayor's vision for the CMC is to build on the successes of the past and bring new items to Garland. Promote items as a community; reach for a new level. An example would be Garland Restaurant Association, to work with them to bring more to Garland; to have the CMC logo on their brochure. Do things to change the perception of Garland. The Mayor would like to see things like a "restaurant row" possibly around Garland Road & Beltline, as well as in South Garland.

The Council is reviewing all of the boards and commissions and staff resources. Going forward the staff liaison for the CMC will be Beth Dattomo and less from Priscilla Wilson's staff.

The Mayor asked the CMC members for their thoughts and ideas on the CMC. Several members volunteer in their ethnic community and are very involved with them. Some of the past successes have included the 2010 Census with the increase in reporting. Several would like to go into the community and neighborhoods more to assess their needs and share what

the City has to offer. Welcoming and educating new neighbors upon moving to Garland would help by letting them know what is available to them, what is expected, and where to find answers to any questions/concerns they may have. A concern is how to increase attendance at events.

Mayor Athas likes the educational approach and reaching different cultures as well as amplifying efforts. Priscilla shared the one important trait to remember as a CMC member is the need to be involved in more than just the one meeting a month. It also involves attending/planning/executing other events throughout the year. A suggestion made by a member was to present two goals to Council for them to decide which one is most important and work to meet/exceed that goal. Mayor Athas reiterated to the group that with the decrease in staff's time for support that they carefully consider which items to continue to do yearly and which new items to add.

Chair's Briefing:

Walnut Street Mall crime watch, hosted by Dallas Police, was held on June 27th. Jennifer Nguyen was in attendance and appreciates the organization of the Garland Police crime watch events.

On July 1st State Representative Angie Chen-Button shared at the House regarding the budget and abortion.

Tarrant County Commissioner Andy Nguyen scheduled a 45-minute meeting with Jennifer to discuss how to form a CMC. The meeting actually lasted 4 hours.

Theron Bowman, Arlington's Deputy City Manager for Neighborhood Services, spoke with Jennifer about the CMC.

The "Heroes of South Vietnam Memorial Foundation" fundraising event held Sunday, July 14th was attended by approximately 4,000 people including Councilman John Willis, Larry Click, Mayor Ronald E. Jones and wife Peggy, Jennifer, and Priscilla.

Staff Briefing:

If you have meetings/business to attend to in downtown, you will want to allow extra time for the commute and parking. Construction is underway around City Hall and parking is at a premium and limited to 3 hours.

The Summer Nutrition Program will end August 9th and CMC members can volunteer to help with lunches and activities at the sites.

Several items needing decisions this evening are:

- How will CMC be involved with the Senior Awareness Day in Richardson?
- Does CMC want to be involved with the clothing for the NAACP Back to School Fair and Rally?
- Does CMC want to have a booth at the Healthy Living Expo?

Priscilla suggests taking Mayor Athas' comments to heart and acting upon them. Priscilla will still be involved over the next few months while Beth becomes familiar with her role as liaison.

Motion by Minerva; second by Kausha for CMC to participate in the Senior Awareness Day on August 3rd at the Richardson Civic Center from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; approved.

Motion by Minerva; second by Susie, that we order both a vinyl and direct print banner with grommets. Indoor 3'x6' banner and outdoor 4'x8' banner; check to see if they will give a discount with FastSign; approved.

Motion by Ricardo; second by Deo, for CMC to participate in the NAACP Back to School Rally on August 24th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; approved.

Motion by Kausha; second by Minerva, for CMC to participate in the Healthy Living Expo on September 21st; approved.

Committee Reports and Discussion

- o Ad hoc Committee
 - No report.
- o Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)
 - No report.
- Community Services
 - No report.
- Multicultural Affairs
 - Event Updates No report.
 - Calendar of Community Events
 - Recommendations: No report.
 - Summer Nutrition Program thru August 9th.
 - It would be great if two CMC members could be present at one site one day a week to help the site coordinator pass out lunches and help with the activities. It would be about a two-hour commitment.
 - Senior Awareness Day will be on August 3rd in Richardson from 9 a.m. 1 p.m.
 - NAACP Back to School Fair
 - o Friday, August 23, 2013; time to be determined
 - o Saturday, August 24, 2013; 9 a.m. 1 p.m.
 - o Location: Mount Hebron Baptist Church; 1233 State Highway 66.
 - CMC usually collects donated clothes and helps with the clothing setup and distribution.
 - Healthy Living Expo will be on Saturday, September 21st at the Curtis Culwell Center from 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

CMC Monthly Meeting Dates:

August 15, 2013 at 232 Carver; Building #2 in Garland September 19, 2013 at 232 Carver; Building #2 in Garland October 17, 2013 at 232 Carver; Building #2 in Garland

Future Events:

GAFHA's Hispanic Heritage Banquet will be held on October 19th.

Future Agenda Items:

Suggestion made for the committee to meet, probably in September, to decide the sub-committee chairs, etc.

Adjourn

Motion made by Ricardo; second by Minerva to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.; approved.

Submitted by: Cheryl Ziriax, CMC Secretary

Approved by Committee: September 23, 2013

Approved by: Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair