



GARLAND

COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Nguyen, Chair
Charles Pickitt
Deo Sookdeo
Ed Moore
Jesse A. Sanchez
Jim Gallegos
Kaushalya Siriwardana
Lucian Giambasu
Marcie Adame
Minerva Moreno
Ricardo Rocha

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Martha Melaku, Vice-Chair
Janet L. Bridges

GUESTS/CITIZENS:

Sandra Dinkins

STAFF PRESENT:

Beth Dattomo
Cheryl Zirrax

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Jennifer, Chair.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Minerva; seconded by Deo to approve the March 20, 2014 meeting minutes; motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

None.

National Day of Prayer:

Sandra Dinkins with National Day of Prayer presented information for this year's event. It will be held Thursday, May 1 at The Atrium from noon – 1 p.m. She encouraged those attending the event to wear their native dress in order to show the diversity in Garland's population. Ms. Dinkins would appreciate CMC members notifying other groups in Garland and encouraging them to participate.

Chair's Briefing:

Jennifer attended the 16th Annual Garland Police Department Awards Dinner on April 5. The National Fair Housing Luncheon was attended by Deo, Minerva, Jesse, Jennifer, Beth and Priscilla. Taste of Garland will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 7 – 10 p.m. (tickets available at the door - \$25).

Committee Night meetings have had about 1/3 of members in attendance. After committee discussion, it was concluded that the formal Committee Night would be cancelled and each individual subcommittee chairperson would call a meeting when needed. Conference calls may be set up through Cheryl with two business days advance notification.

CMC welcomed the newest CMC member, Ed Moore. He introduced himself to the committee.

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Staff Briefing:

Heritage Week will take place the last week of May. A number of events will take place during the week with the culmination of the Walnut Pedestrian opening. Final details will be released soon. Details are being worked out on how CMC can help with the event(s).

Members were reminded The Marketplace in downtown Garland will take place on Saturday, April 19.

The Bylaws have been reviewed by Legal and changes have been notated in red. The changes in yellow are from the Bylaws committee. Due to the number of changes, the Bylaws will not be up for approval tonight.

Committee Reports and Discussion:

- **Ad hoc Committee**
 - Consider approval of the Bylaws at the next meeting.
 - Would like "House Rules" to be given to CMC members (as adopted by Council).
- **Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)**
 - Consider partnering with Hope Clinic, Carter Blood Care, and Helping Hands. The Global Youth Conference has not had further discussion. The committee will have a recommendation at the next CMC meeting as to which project to work on.
- **Community Services**
 - Committee will open dialog with various community services in regards to how we can partner with them. The focus is diversity and engagement as well as being strategic.
 - Marcie has started a database for the Restaurant Guide and suggested everyone will need to contribute to it. Finding restaurants in their own districts would be a great place to start.
- **Multicultural Affairs**
 - Mosaic Festival was suggested to be held on the downtown square in October; two dates were available in October. CMC would consider partnering with GDBA (Garland Downtown Business Association), the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the downtown businesses. Motion made by Marcie; seconded by Deo to have the Mosaic Festival on the downtown square; motion passed. The date will be decided later. CMC will consider asking to have Sixth Street Crossing blocked at the railroad tracks (near the apartments and library) to help with foot traffic and to allow traffic around the square to continue as normal.

Commission Item Review:

The City event calendar was distributed to those present. CMC members are to send Cheryl information on upcoming events for inclusion.

CMC Monthly Meeting Dates:

May 15, 2014 – Regular Meeting
June 19, 2014 – Regular Meeting
July 17, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Future Agenda/Events Items:

None presented.

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Adjourn:

As there was no other business to discuss Jennifer, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by: Cheryl Ziriak, CMC Secretary

Approved by Committee: May 15, 2014

Approved by: Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair