GARLAND

COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jennifer Nguyen, Chair
Sunbola Ashimi, Vice-Chair
Chekeitha Gray
Dassa Giles
Deo Sookdeo
Henry Hammons, II
Hubert Hartin
Kaushalya Siriwardana
Martha Melaku
Minerva Moreno
Ricardo Rocha

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

STAFF PRESENT:
Priscilla Wilson
Cheryl Ziriax

GUESTS:
Beth Dattomo

Call To Order:
The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Nguyen.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion made by Sunbola; second by Martha to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting; approved unanimously.

Guest Comments:
Beth Dattomo, the Mayor's Assistant, greeted everyone. She will be helping HR with some projects. Priscilla will speak later regarding Beth's role with the CMC over the next year.

Chair's Briefing:
Jennifer Nguyen attended the NAACP Brunch on September 17 along with Deo, Kausha (represent CMC) and Minerva. Minerva was invited by DFWAACC.

Jennifer had lunch with Angie Chen-Button on September 20 and their picture appeared in the Asian paper along with information on the upcoming Mosaic Festival.

Jennifer attended the Vietnamese American National Convention Asian American special, private Dinner with Council Lori Dodson; their picture was on the front page.

The DFW AACC Banquet was held on September 24 and the CMC was recognized for the work with the Asian community this past year. Minerva, Sunbola, Chekeitha, Martha, Kausha, Dassa and Jennifer were in attendance and accepted the award along with Mayor Ronald Jones, Council members and Priscilla. Several CMC members were

seated with Mr. Reginald Hardwick, the NBC 5 television Executive Producer. NBC channel 5 now has a Garland assigned reporter Ms. Tammy Matutsa and is willing to promote CMC meetings and events over the next year. The CMC had recognition on the front page in the Asian Newspaper as well as a magazine (USA wide circulation).

Jennifer expressed her appreciation for everyone's help with the Mosaic Festival on October 1. She gave a special thank you to Dassa and Minerva for their work as Co-Chairs of the event. Kausha was unable to attend the event; but sent four very good volunteers. There was a write-up in the newspaper as well as a picture regarding the Mosaic Festival.

Jennifer attended a celebration in Arlington on Sunday, October 2 along with NBC 5 producer.

Jennifer attended the City Council Hearing on Monday, October 3 with Mr. Vu and the new NBC reporter, Tammy Matutsa.

Jennifer had a meeting with Garland's Police Chief Mitch Bates on Wednesday, October 5 to address her concerns with volunteer issues as well as how to keep our community safe for the Holidays.

Jennifer hosted a dinner with the new NBC reporter as well as with Lori Dodson, new City Council person and Asian Media on October 4.

The "2011 Tarrant County Asian American Chamber of Commerce Recognition Awards Gala" had Jennifer as a guest speaker. She shared information regarding the CMC as well as our plans for 2012.

A special fundraiser in Richardson was held at Maxine's on October 9, Tom Nguyen, Jennifer, Mayor Ronald Jones, and Peggy Jones attended. They recognized Garland's CMC for their hard work.

Tasty China in Garland was selected as the meeting location for the 2011 Elected Officials, City of Garland Open Dialogue dinner to be held Tuesday, October 25, 2011. Motion made by Dassa; second by Henry for the CMC to support the Open Dialogue Dinner at Tasty China with $200; approved unanimously.

Staff Briefing:
The CMC/Council Map board is almost completed. CMC members need to provide the contact number to be listed. The CMC member name and district will be included.

We have two people confirmed to attend the Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, October 22. If any others would like to attend, you need to notify Cheryl tonight.

The City's Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner is on Thursday, November 3 and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Beth Dattomo will be the liaison for the We The People Conference 2012 (WTP) project. We will identify a select few to work with Beth as well as others on the committee. They will meet bi-weekly. Suggestions need to be emailed to Beth Dattomo (edattomo@garlandtx.gov) and Cheryl Ziriax (cziriax@garlandtx.gov).

Suggestions should include:

- how the event will be structured
- what events would take place
- who would be invited
- what we plan to do

Mayor Ronald Jones will present the reasons to GISD as to why we should have the GISD Special Event Center free of charge. Community leaders would be interested in what is pertinent to the community; issues that face citizens every day, such as education and economy. Items that citizens would be interested in include a mini-job fair, health fair, as well as the Mosaic Festival activities. The CMC members will need to have a meeting to brainstorm. Have specific topics to discuss (issues) at the WTP. A presentation, possibly in December, will be made to Council by a CMC member. The staff liaison will be present for support. Dassa and Minerva want everyone to be involved with WTP. A suggestion was made to have a 'Battle of the Bands,' science projects, and/or artwork displayed in order to have GISD 'buy-in.' CMC will have a brainstorming meeting in 1 week on Wednesday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Austin State Room (if available).

In addition to events already mentioned, some upcoming event dates are:

- Neighborhood Summit – October 22
- Board & Commissions Appreciation Dinner – November 3
- **CMC Meeting & Potluck – November 17**
- **Christmas on the Square – December 1**
- **Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast – December 8**
- **CMC Meeting – January 19 (no December meeting)**

Committee Reports/Discussion:

Ad hoc Committee

- Dassa stated that the Nominating Committee (Dassa Giles, Martha Melaku, and Minerva Moreno) solicited a call for nominations on October 17 – 19, via electronic mail, to members of the CMC for the purpose of slating candidates for office. Dassa read the following slate to the members:
  - Office of Chairperson: Jennifer Nguyen and Minerva Moreno
  - Office of Vice-Chairperson: Martha Melaku
- Dassa then opened the floor to allow the CMC members to make nominations for these offices.

- Additional nominations for Vice-Chairperson: Minerva was nominated; Minerva declined and asked her name to be withdrawn; Sunbola was nominated; Sunbola declined and asked her name to be withdrawn.
- Additional nominations for Chairperson: Minerva declined her nomination and asked her name to be withdrawn; Dassa was nominated; Dassa declined and asked her name to be withdrawn.
- Dassa announced the floor was now closed for nominations.
- Dassa read the following new slate to the members:
  - Office of Chairperson: Jennifer Nguyen
  - Office of Vice-Chairperson: Martha Melaku
- Dassa reminded the members that the election of officers shall be held during the regularly scheduled November meeting. Newly elected officers will assume office immediately.

Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)

- CMC Letter of Introduction:
  - No report
- Website
  - No report

Community Services

- No report

Multicultural Affairs

- **Event Updates**
  - We The People Conference – **November 3, 2012**
    - Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26 at 6 p.m. with dinner from Matt's.

- **Review Calendar of Events**
  - November Meeting and Potluck – Priscilla will order smoked turkey

CMC Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items

- AA Community Hosts Open Dialog / Network Dinner at Tasty China (Garland) – October 25
  - CMC has an open invitation to attend – significant others also invited
- Boards & Commissions Appreciation Dinner – November 3
- **CMC Meeting & Potluck – November 17**
- **Hispanic Heritage Banquet – November 19**

Announcements

Jennifer Nguyen shared that Addison Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday (October 22 & 23) at Addison Circle.

Henry shared that Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church will have an event on October 28 at 7:30 p.m. The free event features music with Don McKirkland and friends. On the 29th they will have a health fair and workshops ($40 per person).

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by: **Cheryl Ziriax, CMC Secretary**

Approved by Committee: **November 17, 2011**

Approved by: **Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair**