



GARLAND

**COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Nguyen, Chair
Chekeitha Gray
Deo Sookdeo
Henry Hammons, II
Hubert Hartin
Kaushalya Siriwardana
Minerva Moreno

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sunbola Ashimi, Vice Chair
Dassa Giles
Martha Melaku

STAFF PRESENT:

Priscilla Wilson
Cheryl Ziriak

GUESTS:

None

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Nguyen.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Minerva Moreno; second by Henry Hammons to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting; approved unanimously.

Guest Comments:

None.

Chair's Briefing:

Jennifer Nguyen hosted a friendship dinner on July 29 with about 150 people in attendance. A member of the Asian community had contacted Jennifer regarding his guilt in a Federal Insurance Fraud case. The community will help his family. He wanted to apologize to Jennifer, the community and the media and wanted to be an example to the community as what not to do. Councilman Rick Williams was in attendance, along with 10 different media.

Miss Asia American Program invited Jennifer where she shared information about the CMC and it was very well received by the attendees.

In a business development meeting with Bill Dollar and Mitch Bates concern was expressed regarding gang members and school drop-outs. They also expressed concern on the Grand Prairie roller-skating rink shooting in which 6 people lost their lives. The gangs are coming back into Garland and are congregating around the Saigon Mall.

Garland's former Assistant Police Chief and current Grand Prairie Police Chief, Steve Dye, met with Jennifer. He wanted to know how to help/support the Asian community in

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Grand Prairie after the shooting at the roller-skating rink. Jennifer invited Chief Dye to the Mosaic Festival.

The Senior Awareness Day on August 6 was attended by Jennifer, Sunbola, Kausha, Minerva, and Priscilla where they were able to distribute the CMC brochures. The CMC members would like to support the 2012 Senior Awareness Day.

At the 10th Annual Asian Business Expo hosted by US Pan Asian American Chamber Southwest on August 17, 2011, Jennifer sat at the Verizon table and was able to network with others regarding CMC endeavors.

Staff Briefing:

The NAACP Back to School Fair will be held August 20. CMC members were asked to assist from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. with the clothing distribution in conjunction with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Minerva, Kausha, Jennifer, Chekeitha, and Priscilla will attend on Saturday. Henry, Hubert and Priscilla also committed to help setup as their time permitted on Friday, August 19 from 3 – 5 p.m.

CMC will have a booth and banner at the Healthy Living Expo on Saturday, September 24. CMC members will be responsible for handing the event giveaways to attendees. We will probably need to be there at 8 a.m. Deo will be in attendance.

The Mayor will be presenting the ideas and concepts during the second week in September to Curtis Caldwell for We The People Conference/Mosaic Festival to be held November 3, 2012. We will provide the Mayor with talking points on the topics and/or purpose of the event. CMC members need to send thoughts on what should be covered. Some ideas include: the naturalization process; school drop-outs and teen pregnancy; childhood & adult diabetes; gang violence; senior citizen issues; needs of the community; mini-job fair; and tables/booths for vendors and/or agencies in the community.

The layout of the CMC/City Council Map was distributed. It will be sent for printing. We are still missing one CMC member's picture.

Jennifer proposed for the CMC to have a booth with a small giveaway at the DFW AACC banquet. The CMC will be presented with the Friendship Award/Best Non Asian supporting group for support to the Asian Community. All members are to be onstage to receive the award and have a picture taken. It was suggested to practice standing onstage prior to the awards presentation. A table at the banquet is \$500 and seats 10 people.

The suggestion was made to send a thank you card to Greater Dallas Printing to acknowledge their kind donation of printing our new CMC brochures. A letter will be drafted and signed by Jennifer and Priscilla.

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A resolution will be presented to the CMC by Angie Chen-Button's office at the Garland City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. for our part in the Senior Awareness Day 2011 held in Richardson.

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

- Unity Fest – September 2 & 3
- NAACP Banquet/Brunch – September 17
- Neighborhood Summit – October 22
- Board & Commissions Appreciation Dinner – November 3
- Hispanic Heritage Banquet – November 19

Unity Fest 2011, held by Mt. Hebron Church, will take place on September 2 and 3. It is expected to have 5,000 – 10,000 in attendance. The CMC decided not to have a booth at the event.

NAACP Freedom Fund Brunch on September 17 at 10 a.m. with the Silent Auction at 9 a.m. will be held at the Double Tree Hotel at 1981 N. Central Expressway & Campbell Road. Kausha and Deo are available to attend.

Committee Reports/Discussion:

Ad hoc Committee

- No report

Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)

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

Community Services

- **Senior Awareness Day** – August 6
 - Kausha, Sunbola, Jennifer and Priscilla attended

Multicultural Affairs

- **Event Updates**
 - Mosaic Festival – October 1, 2011 by Minerva
 - Approximately half of last year's performers have indicated they would attend this year
 - Vendors are responding via email to Minerva
 - Boy Scouts will be assisting with the Festival
 - School talent ('rap') will be approached to participate
 - Media will be contacted by Minerva
 - Priscilla will provide the City's contacts

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- CMC Booth will have the story board and brochures
 - Yoga & Rumba Instructor and Massage Therapist will attend/demonstrate
 - Pre-packaged food items do not need a permit to sell
 - Flyers will be distributed around the event area
 - Minerva will approach Merna for printing and distribution
 - Fire and Police vehicles on display
 - Emcee not scheduled yet – Minerva will approach a local radio personality, comedian, etc.
 - CMC members need to start asking volunteers to help
- **Review Calendar of Events**
 - NAACP Back to School Fair – August 20
 - City Council Meeting – September 6
 - CMC Meeting – September 15
 - NAACP Banquet – September 17
 - Healthy Living Expo – September 24
 - DFW AACC Banquet – September 24
 - Mosaic Festival – October 1
 - Boards & Commissions Appreciation Dinner – November 3
 - CMC Meeting – November 17
 - Hispanic Heritage Banquet – November 19

Announcements

See previous paragraph for dates of events.

Adjourn

Motion made by Henry, second by Deo to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by: Cheryl Ziriak, CMC Secretary

Approved by Committee: September 15, 2011

Approved by: Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair