GARLAND

# COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)
# MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
# THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Jennifer Nguyen, Chair
Martha Melaku, Vice-Chair
Deo Sookdeo
Hubert Hartin
Janet L. Bridges
Minerva Moreno
Susie Rutherford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**
Dorothy Brooks
Kaushalya Siriwardana
Ricardo Rocha

**GUESTS/CITIZENS:**
None

**STAFF PRESENT:**
Priscilla Wilson
Beth Dattomo
Cheryl Ziriax

**Call To Order:**
The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Nguyen.

**Approval of Minutes:**
Motion made by Janet; second by Martha to approve the May 16, 2013 meeting minutes; approved unanimously.

**Citizen Comments:**
None.

**Chairs Briefing:**
Jennifer invited Pam Harris, City of Garland's Fair Housing Coordinator, to tape a 20-minute program at VietFaceTV promoting the Summer Nutrition Program in Garland. On May 22nd Warren Bird was able to promote the City's swimming pool facilities in a 20-minute program.

Tarrant County Commissioner Andy Nguyen held a luncheon for the top 10 businesses; Jennifer was invited to speak regarding the CMC.

Jennifer and Marcus Murphy, Dallas Morning News NeighborsGo writer, collaborated on an article for the Saigon Mall on May 31st while on location.

Garland Fire Department was represented on June 5th at a VietFaceTV taping by Merrill and Christopher Balanciere.

Joe Harn, Public Information Officer for the Garland Police Department, spoke regarding personal safety issues on the June 10th show.

Jennifer spoke at a June 15th Filipino Republic Day Celebration and conveyed greetings from the CMC.

City of Richardson's Mayor, Laura Maczka, met with Jennifer to find out what CMC can do for Richardson.

Jennifer expressed her thanks to the elected City leaders that were able to make it to the Saigon Mall Grand Opening celebration on June 19th. Councilman Scott LeMay spoke during the ceremony. Richardson's Mayor, Garland Police and Fire Department personnel, and Beth Dattomo (Garland's Assistant to the Mayor) attended the event.

**Staff Briefing:**
Priscilla's role is changing at the City, so Beth Dattomo will be taking a more active role over the next several months.

Mayor Doug Athas has been invited to attend the next CMC meeting as he was unable to attend the June meeting due to a prior commitment. One of the new changes that Council voted on is that every member on every board or commission whose term is expiring must reapply to the City Secretary's Office by July 1st if they choose to continue to serve. CMC is a working commission and requires a significant time commitment of volunteer work outside of the regular monthly meetings.

Construction has begun in the downtown area, so allow plenty of time for parking as space is limited.

Parks personnel noted 51 chairs were missing from the count after the Mosaic Festival was over. We are waiting to hear back from Parks regarding this matter.

With the Mosaic Festival over, CMC needs to decide what they will work on going forward.

Fireworks will take place at Firewheel Town Center on July 4th from 4 – 9 p.m.

**Committee Reports and Discussion**

- **Ad hoc Committee**
  - No report.
- **Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)**
  - No report.
- **Community Services**
  - No report.
- **Multicultural Affairs**
  - Event Updates
    - Mosaic Festival Feedback
      - Opening ceremony was very beautiful; not many people present to enjoy it. Quite a few people were in attendance by the end of the day.
      - Performers were very good.
      - Internal communication/feedback could be greatly improved.
      - Timing issues for setup. Stage drop-off area needs to be reserved prior to scheduled delivery time (charged extra for time the vendor had to wait to setup). Need to begin several hours prior to vendors

scheduled arrival. Area for setup needs to be free of cars to help expedite setup. Flags need to be hung so they can be seen.
    - More volunteers would have been appreciated. Have lots of volunteers' on-hand for both setup and cleanup. Avoid long holiday weekends.
    - Jennifer thanked everyone for their hard work.
- Calendar of Community Events
  - Recommendations: No report.
  - NAACP Back to School Fair
    - Saturday, August 24, 2013; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
    - Location: Mount Hebron Baptist Church; 1233 State Highway 66.
    - CMC usually collects donated clothes and helps with the clothing setup and distribution.
  - 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.
  - Healthy Living Expo will be on Saturday, September 21st at the Curtis Culwell Center. Volunteers are needed to help with the race.

**CMC Monthly Meeting Dates:**

**Note date changed to: Wednesday, July 17, 2013** at Saigon Mall 3212 N. Jupiter Road; 2nd floor conference room in Garland (main entrance, right turn, 2nd floor, only big room) Dinner will be provided.

**August 15, 2013** at 232 Carver; Building #2 in Garland

**September 19, 2013** at 232 Carver; Building #2 in Garland

**Future Events:**

The Heroes of Vietnam War Memorial Foundation (HVNWF) have been approved for City services. The groundbreaking will be Saturday, June 22nd at 10 a.m. in Arlington. The fundraiser event will take place on Sunday, July 14th at the Curtis Culwell Center. CMC members will need to let Jennifer know if they plan to attend.

Saigon Mall Grand Opening will take place on June 22nd in the morning.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Motion by Janet; second by Minerva to obtain a quote for a new CMC banner and bring to the next CMC meeting; approved.

It was suggested for CMC to meet with different ethnic groups during the year.

It was suggested for CMC members to attend a variety of community ethnic events during the year. Put together a calendar of events in the community and email and/or bring the information to the meetings.

**Adjourn**
Motion made by Martha; second by Deo to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.; approved.

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| **Submitted by:** | **Cheryl Ziriax, CMC Secretary** |
| **Approved by Committee:** | **July 17, 2013** |
| **Approved by:** | **Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair** |