

CIRA Minutes

Date: June 24, 2019

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Location: Room 248, Tacoma Municipal Building (747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402)

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Mok

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.

II. Statement of Purpose – Chair Mok

Chair Mok reminded the group of the statement of purpose addition to the agenda, and shared the statement of purpose.

III. Land Acknowledgement – Chair Mok

Chair Mok shared the Land Acknowledgement statement

IV. Pride Month Acknowledgement – Vice-Chair Parra

Vice-Chair Parra read a statement recognizing that June is Pride month, and also recognized June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

V. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Mok

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present

- Jefferson Mok (Chair)
- Diana Parra (Vice-Chair)
- Silong Chhun
- Jason Gamboa
- Perla Gamboa
- Alma Vargas
- Clara Zamalloa

Absent

- Vaelupemaua Anitema
- Hieu Nguyen
- Saiyare Refaei

VI. Consent on Agendas – Vice-Chair Parra

- a. Approval of Meeting Agenda. Vice-Chair Parra made a motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Jason Gamboa seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
- b. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. The Commission will vote to approve the minutes from the last several months at the August retreat.

VII. Commission Updates – Chair & Vice-Chair

a. Census 2020 Task Force update

Chair Mok introduced Pierce County Auditor to share information about the 2020 Census. Small grants are available through the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to support grassroots efforts to count all communities. Ms. Anderson shared a factsheet on the Census and confidentiality. The Census is required by law, and we have a responsibility to answer every question. However, we understand that some questions are concerning to people. The Pierce County Auditor’s website has a page dedicated to the Census. www.co.pierce.wa.us/6025/Pierce-County-Complete-Count-Committee Several racial and ethnic groups, and geographic areas are at risk of being under counted. CIRA can help by helping the County reach out to those groups and areas.

There is a lot to lose by not being counted, including federal block grant funding (\$1,900 per person per year) and political power. The group discussed language access concerns and concerns about the Citizenship question. The Administration will decide on July 11th whether or not the citizenship question will be included on the Census questionnaire. Commissioner Perla Gamboa shared a more user friendly fact sheet on the Census Confidentiality in English and Spanish. Mr. Mosesly will share this electronically and in hard copies at the next meeting.

b. Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor

Vice-Chair Parra shared a concern with Ms. Anderson that Pierce County election materials, including ballots, were not translated, and there are no plans to translate for future elections. Ms. Anderson apologized for the experience Vice-Chair Parra had, and shared several ways Washington State and Pierce County are working to improve language access for elections, including online ballots, brochures, videos, information on drop boxes, library computer access, and Language Line phone interpretation. Ms. Anderson requested a follow-up meeting in two months to discuss more ideas for improving language access in elections. Ms. Anderson also shared felony voting rights information cards, and will get them translated.

c. Latasha Ware, Junior Management Fellow, City of Tacoma – Welcoming Week

Ms. Ware introduced herself and introduced National Welcoming Week. The group reiterated an interest in working on an immigrant and refugee vendor marketplace. Commissioner Chhun made a motion to accept the Welcoming Week proclamation and play a supporting role in Welcome Week, Commissioner Perla Gamboa seconded, the motion is passed. Ms. Ware will send out a communication soon asking who is interested in participating in Welcoming Week. Vice Chair Parra made a motion to support the proposal of an immigrant and refugee marketplace during Welcoming Week. Ms. Ware and Mr. Mosesly will find out how to make it happen.

d. Commissioner Updates

- Commissioner Zamalloa will share meeting notes regarding the NWDC via email. No action is necessary from CIRA at this time.
- Commissioner Perla Gamboa shared printed resources regarding the Census 2020. Mr. Mosesly will distribute electronically. Commissioner Perla Gamboa expressed interest in joining the Census Task Force.
- Senior Management Fellow Bucoda Warren will provide information about the City's policy regarding language access for the Census. Mr. Mosesly recommended discussing the City's general language access policy at the retreat.
- Commissioner Jason Gamboa is organizing a Philipino culinary and cultural event July 18th. www.kaintayo.space
- Commissioner Chhun is hosting a film screening at the Grand, an animated film about the Khmer Rouge, including a panel discussion. There are 52 Cambodian deportations confirmed for July 1. Recently, four Cambodian community

members were detained by ICE and all four were successfully reunited with their families.

VIII. General Business

a. Committee Reports: Updates, Work Plans, and Suggestions for Action

- i. Community Engagement: Planning to meet before the next meeting. It was requested that the CIRA page on the City's website be updated.
- ii. Governance: Working on the agenda for the August retreat.
- iii. Language Access: Working on the plan for 2019. Asked Korbett to schedule meetings the third Friday of the month from 12-1, and find a meeting room.
- iv. Northwest Detention Center: There are conversations about expanding the Northwest Detention Center, and there is opportunity for feedback from the community. The Committee will send questions out.
- v. Community Safety: No meeting this month. Meeting again in July.

b. Upcoming Events – Discussion

- i. July Reception for CIRA One-Year Recognition (Meet & Greet, voluntary): Commissioner Chhun made a motion for CIRA to propose a Meet & Greet event to recognize the one year anniversary during Welcoming Week, Vice-Chair Parra seconded, the motion passed. Commissioner Chhun will work with Ms. Ware and Mr. Mosesly to coordinate the event.
- ii. CIRA Annual Workplan Retreat: The retreat date was confirmed by those present as August 10th, 9 am to 1 pm.
- iii. Other events: None

IX. City Staff Updates

Mr. Mosesly shared that we are getting caught up on minutes from last year. The goal is to vote to approve them all at the August retreat. He also shared the Office of Equity and Human Rights Equity and Empowerment Framework goals, and encouraged the group to align their recommendations with those goals and Vision 2025 when making recommendations to the City since the City has already committed to them. The group discussed when to have minutes translated, and the group decided that the minutes should be translated first, then brought to the monthly meeting for review and approval in English and Spanish. Chair Mok will bring this change to the bylaws for a vote at the next meeting. The group also requested to discuss who should take minutes for regular meetings during the August retreat. Mr. Mosesly will share information about the process for filling vacancies.

X. Public Comment

Vicky Ybarra compiled some research and data on immigrant and refugee communities here in Tacoma and in other municipalities that she shared with the Chair.

XI. Items for Next Meeting

Please send items to Chair Mok.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.