



Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Present: Co-Chair Yarlennys Villaman and Commissioners Jennifer Sparks, Elizabeth Badger, Karim Razzaz, Karin Lin, Marcio Macedo, and CIRC Staff: Executive Director Nancy Schlacter, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

Absent:

Commissioners Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Sandra Mercedes Canas, and Nick Lopez-Cortes

1. Call to order:

Co-Chair Yarlennys Villaman called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. Public comment

No public present, no comment.

3. Review and approval of April minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the April 25 meeting, Commissioner Sparks moved to approve, and Commissioner Badger seconded. There are no minutes for the May meeting because there was no quorum reached, and the meeting was subsequently canceled.

4. Executive Director's (ED) report

The May legal screening clinic had 30 clients. The June legal clinic had 24 clients. The new Executive Director at AILA helped the legal clinic by spreading the word in an email blast calling for volunteer legal attorneys. Co-Chair Villaman and Commissioner Davis have resigned. Co-Chair Villaman's last day is August 31, 2019. The vacancies are now posted with plans to fill the positions in the Fall. The closing date for the vacancies is August 16, 2019. Once applicants are reviewed, interviews will be scheduled for late August or early September. ED Schlacter will verify the dates for Commissioners whose 3-year terms are soon to expire. Commissioner Razzaz provided feedback on the poetry event for Javier Zamora and said it was an excellent event. There was also positive feedback from the audience. CIRC staff will email regarding volunteer shifts for Danehy Park Day. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 from 11 am to 4 pm. ED Schlacter has a meeting later this month with Emily Singer of College Success Initiative (CSI) and staff from ENROOT. They will be addressing access to information on financial aid resources for undocumented students. Commissioner Badger has also been in communication with Vera in Guidance Dept. at CRLS on how students who are not in the ENROOT program may fall through the cracks because they do not have full access to information. ED Schlacter explained that the PIF Campaign PowerPoint training on the Public Charge rule will be put on hold until the rule is finalized in the coming months. The PIF PowerPoint training was forwarded to staff at the CPL and Community Learning Center. ED Schlacter passed out a 1-page flyer from PIF Campaign that provides basic need to know information about the proposed rule change. ED Schlacter passed out a Call to Action made by NLIHC/NHLP regarding mixed-status families that would be affected by HUD's proposed rulemaking. ED Schlacter also handed out information about the city's response to HUD's rule change to evict undocumented tenants from public and publicly-subsidized housing. ED Schlacter announced that Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (LCR) is launching a Multilingual Census Hotline to provide community education outreach material explaining the importance of all immigrants participating in the census.

• Report from Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL)

ISL Wabeto provided highlights of her monthly outreach. ISL Wabeto reached out to John Josti, the Director of Outreach and Partnerships at Hope Fellowship Church (HFC). Although HFC does not have any immigrant members, there are two immigrant churches with Haitian and Nepalese members that use the church facilities on Saturdays. Mr. Josti will connect CIRC with those churches and will promote the upcoming KYR training. ISL Wabeto helped a Bangladeshi family with their son who refused to go to school. This student is a senior and was

at-risk of not graduating. ISL Wabeto connected the mother to College Success Initiative, which helped organize summer classes for the student, and keep them on track for graduating.

5. New Business

• Faithful America

ED Schlacter passed out an email that was forwarded by Commissioner Razzaz about the efforts of Faithful America to mobilize people of faith to urge the Department of Justice to drop charges against volunteers helping migrants. ED Schlacter asked the Commission to weigh in if they believe there is some local impact that needs to be addressed. The Commission will review the email on their own time.

• Holiday Scheduling

The meetings in November and December both fall on or around Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was moved that the meetings be merged into one meeting on Thursday, December 12. Commissioner Lin moved to approve, and Commissioner Badger seconded.

• New Commissioner Orientation PowerPoint

Co-Chair Villaman designed a PowerPoint presentation regarding CIRC, its policies, and procedures. Co-Chair Villaman submitted the presentation to ED Schlacter and it will be sent to the Commission for review and edits. Any revisions made to the PowerPoint can be approved at the meeting in September.

• Online Ethics

ED Schlacter reminded the Commission that the deadline to complete the State Ethics training is due on Monday, July 8. Each member must submit their Certificate of Completion to ED Schlacter.

6. Ongoing Business

• Welcome Event

The Welcome Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 with set up starting at 10 AM, doors opening at 11:00 am, and films starting at 11:30 AM. The discussion will follow the videos and the event will end with lunch at 1:00 PM. Commissioners and CIRC staff will start cleaning up at 2 PM. The Cambridge Public Library (CPL) Lecture Hall, Hallway, and Community Room spaces are reserved for the event. ED Schlacter was asked by NIRV Immigrant Films Coordinator to reconsider including a Cambridge resident filmmaker as one of the 3 participants in the event. ED Schlacter told the film coordinator that a Commission working group identified their top 5 films for the Welcome Event, that the Commission had voted on their recommendations, and that it is the Commission's decision to make. ED Schlacter brought the suggestion to the Commission and after their review of the previous selections, Commissioner Sparks motioned to keep the original selection, Commissioner Macedo seconded, Commissioner Lin opposed. The Commission stayed with their original selection. ED Schlacter will inform NIRV Immigrant Films about the decision. The working group for the Welcome Event was identified as Commissioners: Lin, Lopez-Cortes, and Sylvain-Williams. Co-Chair Villaman suggested the working group start a group text to coordinate meeting times.

• Follow up from Working Groups – nothing new to report

Welcome Event, Communications, DACA – financial aid for undocumented students

• Goal setting for CIRC 2019

Commissioner Macedo moved to put goal-setting on hold until the next meeting. Commissioner Sparks seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

Co-Chair Villaman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 6 pm in the Large Conference Room.