



Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2019

Present: Commissioners Elizabeth Badger, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, 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 Jennifer Sparks and Sandra Mercedes Canas

1. Call to order:

Commissioner Lin called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Public comment

Jean Baptist Gaugin was present. He is a resident of Cambridgeport and an advocate of citizenship and immigrant voting rights.

3. Review and approval of September minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the September 26 meeting, Commissioner Macedo moved to approve, and Commissioner Lin seconded.

4. Executive Director's (ED) report

The October legal screening clinic served a surprising 9 clients. ED Schlacter announced that Commissioner Sylvain-Williams opted not to seek reappointment to the Commission.

• Report from Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL)

ISL Wabeto provided highlights of her monthly outreach. ISL Wabeto discussed her outreach efforts to promote the CIRC Welcome Event; shared an event flyer for the Valente Branch library opening on November 4; announced the Cambridge Public School's (CPS) "Racial Equity" and "Math matters for equity" efforts by the Family Policy Council; described the CPS lottery for free preschool and the tuition-based lottery by Department of Human Services Programs; noted that paper and online registration for the junior kindergarten program will start January 2 and close January 31; explained that families are not required to provide documentation for their children who do not have legal status; described a system called "Doubling," where a family can use the address of a person they live with, or they can register as "homeless" and the homeless family liaison helps with the registration process and other school related needs. ISL Wabeto noted that the CET is hosting a professional development day for outreach workers to discuss the difference between fact and opinion, to learn how to communicate with community members in a non-judgmental way.

5. New Business

• New Commissioner Search

There are four vacancies to fill at the moment. Commissioners Razzaz and Lin have been conducting interviews with ED Schlacter, which gave the interview panel a nice balance. Eight interviews will be completed by October 28, 2019.

• Nomination & election of 2020 Chair(s)

The Commission currently lacks an elected chair. Commissioner Lin volunteered to chair the October meeting and Commissioner Sparks will chair the November/December meeting. ED Schlacter encouraged the Commission to start thinking about nominations for a vote at the November/December meeting. The only eligibility requirement is to be on the Commission for at least one year. Commissioner Lin stated that she was interested in the position, but only as a co-chair. Commissioner Macedo stated that he would help as a last resort.

- **New Commissioner Orientation PowerPoint CIRC**

ED Schlacter reprinted the PowerPoint and the Commission reviewed the edits during the meeting. There were no new comments or edits to address.

- **Legal Clinic PCR Assessments via MLRI Volunteer Attorneys**

The Public Charge Rule Assessments were scheduled to happen at the October 16th CIRC/De Novo Legal Clinic but were cancelled due to Preliminary Injunctions in 3 Federal Courts. In preparation for this effort, hundreds of MA immigration attorneys were trained by MLRI to conduct PCR Assessments. The mobilization effort and assessment template are a model for use if anything changes with the Preliminary Injunctions.

- **Invitation to Hitomi Abe (CET Co-Director)**

ED Schlacter has invited Hitomi Abe, Director of the Community Engagement Team (CET) for the December 12, 2019 meeting. The CET represents 8 language groups in Cambridge. ED Schlacter encouraged the Commission to think of questions for Director Abe to consider.

- **Global Arts Live Events**

ED Schlacter was contacted by Global Arts Live to table at their upcoming concerts at Sanders Theater and Sinclair. There are 3 concerts on Sunday nights in February, March, and April. ED Schlacter will send more information about the dates to the Commission for their consideration.

6. Ongoing Business

- **Feedback - Welcome Event**

The Welcome Event was successful and well attended. The members of the Commission enjoyed the event, especially the film directors guiding the discussion with the audience to create a dialogue.

- **Goal setting for CIRC 2020**

The Commission agreed to wait to discuss goal setting until new members are appointed to the Commission.

7. Future projects

The Commission agreed to remove the discussion about a public art project for welcoming immigrants with Jason Weeks, Arts Council Executive Director, from the agenda.

Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Badger.

The next commission meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 6 pm in the Large Conference Room.