



Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Present:

Chair Marcio Macedo, Commissioners, Yarlennys Villaman, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Karin Lin, ED Nancy Schlacter, CIRC Staff Tagesech Wabeto and Crystal Rosa

Absent:

Commissioners, Jennifer Sparks (on phone), Nick Lopez-Cortes, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo

1. Call to order:

Chair Macedo called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. Commissioner Sparks was on conference call.

2. Public comment

A member of the public was present. He did not provide a name and stated that it was suggested CIRC could be a possible way to volunteer. He explained that he recently moved to Cambridge from Baltimore.

3. Review and approval of September minutes

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

4. Executive Director's report

- The October 17th clinic was the 11th CIRC/CLSACC clinic. There were 16 people/families who attended the October clinic, making a total of 156 clients (group or single) to date. Based on the data collected from the clinics, roughly 35% of clients have been Cambridge residents.
- ED Schlacter explained that Commissioner Chopyak was terminated from the commission by the City Manager for failure to attend meetings.
- Interviews for the four Commission vacancies were conducted in early September and October and the City Manager approved the recommended appointments just before the meeting.
- The November meeting was rescheduled to November 15, 2018, in the conference room located adjacent to the CHRC office.
- ED Schlacter spoke with Emily Singer, from DHSP's College Success Initiative, about her work with ENROOT at the high school and regarding the financial aid resources for undocumented students that CIRC had identified.
- Cambridge Community Foundation and CIRC are hosting a Trauma Forum at MIT's Wong Auditorium on October 29, from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- CLSACC and CIRC will be hosting a thank you event for volunteer attorneys and commission members on Tuesday, October 30. There is a balance left in the first-year budget for the clinic, since CLSACC did not have to hire a paralegal, nor use most of the projected funds for translation services. The excess budget funds will be used to buy 2 laptops for use by the volunteer attorneys during their sessions with clients.
- **Report from Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL)**
- ISL Wabeto provided her outreach report to the Commission and explained that she attended many school events during the first couple months of Fall. ISL Wabeto stated there was also an increase in phone calls and walk-ins this month. ISL Wabeto explained that she has reduced her outreach in public parks due to reduced numbers of people in the parks as it gets colder. Lastly, ISL Wabeto stated that it has been difficult to gain access to senior residences because the staff often insist that the outreach information won't be used by senior residents. However, ISL Wabeto was delighted to learn that a client at the Legal Screening Clinic learned about the clinic from a flyer she posted at one of the senior residences. This has motivated ISL Wabeto to pursue more outreach at those locations.

5. New Business

- **Public Charge Rulemaking**

Since CIRC cannot provide legal advice directly to residents, CIRC encourages people to read the informational handouts by MIRA and ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org. ED Schlacter explained that there is limited time for people to participate in public comment, which has the potential to slow down any changes from happening. The public comment deadline is Monday, December 10.

- **CIRC activities memo**

Lee Gianetti, Director of Communications, contacted ED Schlacter for a memo about CIRC's activities. ED Schlacter provided the information, which was forwarded to the City Council. The Commission was provided a copy of the memo.

- **Goal Setting**

Chair Macedo led the Commission on how to discuss goal setting at the November meeting. The Commission agreed to have the focus be on managing priorities, expectations and consensus-driven. Chair Macedo proposed 45 minutes be devoted to this discussion at the November meeting. CIRC staff will send out the pdf of the Needs Assessment to prepare members of the Commission for the discussion.

Several other topics arose from the conversation, including:

- How much are Commission members expected to be doing?
- Develop a timeline of major events, i.e. Welcome Event
- Interest in an informational forum for the Public Charge Rule
- Review a list of backburner items
- Elements of process in meetings and other activities and pace
- How can the Commission work closely with the City?
- How can CIRC incorporate more commissions into the work?

- **Public Charge Rule Event**

Commissioner Lin informed the Commission that Mass Law Reform Institute (MLRI) had contacted her congregation at First Parish Church regarding a Community Workshop to inform folks about the proposed changes to the Public Charge Rule and to assist folks who want to provide comments in response to the proposed changes. The Commission expressed interested in partnering as a possible sponsor for the event. Commissioner Lin will keep the Commission updated as details are coordinated by MLRI.

6. Ongoing Business

- **CCTV "Ask the City" video series – segment on CIRC – not completed yet**

- **CCF Legal Defense Fund Grants**

ED Schlacter explained that 2-year grants will be awarded to 4 organizations that serve the Cambridge community that focus on representation of folks in detention and deportation proceedings.

- **AGO on UPIL training/outreach**

Commissioner Villaman explained that she repeatedly contacted teachers at CLC to coordinate UPIL trainings and has not received a response that led to a training. Only one teacher followed up from her attempts to contact. ED Schlacter stated that she will contact CLC to help facilitate the coordination for a training.

- **Chair/Co-Chair Election**

Set for the November meeting, with the intention of an election in December. Effective start date for a new Chair would be January 2019.

8. Future projects

- PSA @ CIRC – "Ask the City" video in lieu of this?
- Goals for FY2019 – develop strategic plan w/Needs Assessment in mind
- Elevator pitch

- Jason Weeks - leave on agenda to invite after our goals conversation
- Opportunities for outreach at Cambridge cultural events – Caribbean, Greek,

Commissioner Lin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sylvain-Williams.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at 6 pm in the conference room located in the Human Rights office on the 2nd floor.