



Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 27, 2018

Present:

Chair Marcio Macedo, Commissioners Nick Lopez-Cortes, Karin Lin, Jennifer Sparks, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, ED Nancy Schlacter

Absent:

Commissioners Yarlennys Villaman, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Elena Chopyak, CIRC Staff Tagesech Wabeto and Crystal Rosa

1. Call to order:

Chair Macedo called the meeting to order at 6:27pm.

2. Public comment

No public comment.

3. Review and approval of June minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the June meeting, Commissioner Sparks moved to approve, and Commissioner Lin seconded.

4. Presentation by Whit Hendon, Community Learning Center (CLC)

Mr. Hendon explained that CLC offers 1 citizenship class that lasts the full academic year. The class meets 2 hours per week. There were 17 students in attendance at the first class. CLC usually allows 4-5 Cambridge residents who are not CLC students. However, due to a full class this year, CLC students received priority registration. CLC has sent students to MIRA for assistance with N-400 form completion and used to apply to get the fee waived. However, concerns regarding the Public Charge rule are making it tricky to determine whether to pursue a fee waiver or incur the fee, to avoid harming Legal Permanent Resident status or citizenship opportunities. Mr. Hendon explained that the Citizenship test is focusing on English proficiency. There are about 100 keywords that an applicant needs to know how to read and write. CLC is considering adding another daytime citizenship class for Cambridge residents.

5. Executive Director's report

- There were 16 people/families who attended the legal clinic on September 19th. It was the largest turnout to date. A total of 124 clients (group or single) from 48 foreign countries and 30 MA cities/towns have been served through the August clinic. Altogether 140 clients have been served in the 10 months of the clinic's existence. Folks from Project Citizenship are directing people to CIRC's October clinic, following a Citizenship Day push on September 20, 2018.
- A Doodle will be sent out to poll regarding rescheduling the November meeting since the regularly scheduled meeting falls on Thanksgiving. The possible dates are November 15th or 29th.
- Discussion on commissioners having next week to review new Commissioner applications to help screen.

6. Report from Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL)

- ISL Wabeto outreach report was provided to commissioners since she could not attend due to three outreach event commitments that evening. Danehy Park Day event went well, and many members of the community came up to say hello to ISL Wabeto. Commissioner Sparks actively greeted people to draw them in.
- ED Schlacter is working with PAIR to set up KYRs at CRLS for immigrant high school students or guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists. CRLS is already providing KYRs for students, but wants to talk about what PAIR does, to see if there's anything that can be added. CRLS's ELL Coordinator will be participating in a conference call with CIRC and PAIR to see if student-focused presentation may be more interesting/relevant approach or if a KYR for guidance counselors and staff will be more of interest.

6. New business

- **CCTV “Ask the City” video series – segment on CIRC**

CCTV “Ask the City” added CIRC to its video series. ED Schlacter, Commissioners Epstein-Santoyo, Sylvain-Williams, Villaman and ISL Wabeto participated by answering questions about the legal clinic, CIRC work and outreach.

- **Welcome signage**

Welcome sign was revamped by professional designers, but it included a few foreign language typos, which will be fixed in the next iteration.

- **Immigrant Family Preparedness trainings**

AGO version of Immigrant Family Preparedness info packet is available on CIRC website in English, Spanish and Creole.

- **Public Charge Rule changes**

The latest iteration is not 100% clear yet so maybe best to discuss as more information is released. MIRA’s 1-page information sheet is probably the best.

- **CCF Legal Defense Fund Grants**

Alejandro mentioned this is a grant funded through CCF. Grant funding goal of \$500,000 not achieved yet, but CCF wanted to get \$150,000+ already received out to service providers. The money is intended for Cambridge-serving organizations that provide direct legal services for immigrants, with priority given to people facing ICE detention and imminent removal. There are 10-12 people involved in grant review from other Cambridge organizations, with 6 proposals to consider, who decided to go back out to applicant organizations that can provide the highest priority services.

- **College Success Initiative (CSI)**

CSI is a program through the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP), that includes work similar to what Roxanna and Leslie wanted to take on, regarding providing more financial aid resources and college application information for undocumented immigrant students through CRLS’s Guidance Dept. Nancy to contact CSI staff at on DHSP to see if we can help support this effort in some capacity.

7. Ongoing

- **Immigrant Family Preparedness Training**

Law Department has concerns with organizing a training where others are giving legal advice. This project may not be possible.

- **AGO on UPIL training/outreach**

Yarlennys update at next meeting when she is present.

- **Chair/Co-Chair Election**

Set for the November meeting.

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,

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, October 25, 2018, in the Large Conference Rm on the 2nd Flr at 6 pm.