**Minutes**

**Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

Minutes Date: March 22, 2021 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

1. **Call Meeting to Order –** Chair Refaei

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1. **Statement of Purpose –** Chair Refaei
2. **Land Acknowledgment –** Chair Refaei
3. **Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences –** Acting Chair Refaei

**Present:** Saiyare Refaei (Chair), Sandra Sych (Vice Chair), Emily Calhoun, Patricia Flores, Perla Gamboa, Hieu Nguyen, Diana Parra, Rafael Saucedo, Alma Vargas, Jefferson Mok

**Absent:** Rime Oujdi

**City Staff Present:** Nick Bayard, Samantha Kaauamo, Josh Diekmann (PWD)

**Guests Present:**  Eric Alozie

1. **Consent on Agendas – Chair Refaei**
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda – C. Vargas motioned to approve the agenda. C. Saucedo seconded. Agenda approved.
3. Approval of the February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Postponed to next meeting on April 26, 2021.
4. **Commission Affairs – Chair & Vice Chair** 
   1. **Impact Fee Presentation and Discussion: Eric Alozie (NWE Consulting) & Josh Diekmann (Public Works Dept. Staff, City of Tacoma)**

Alozie presented a PowerPoint with an upcoming Council voting item regarding Impact Fees for the City of Tacoma and would like input from CIRA regarding 1. Which of these improvements would best serve your community? 2. How can the City engage you to better understand community needs? 3. Diekmann attended to assist with questions and comments directed toward Alozie’s presentation. Commissioners Zepeda, Saucedo, Calhoun, Refaei, Nguyen, Mok, Sych asked various questions around restrooms, population growth and management, immigrant/bi-lingual friendly new spaces, reoccurring fees, one-time fees, etc.

* 1. **Discussion of Atlanta shooting, hate crimes, hate speech, and violence against Asians and Asian Americans, and impact on local Tacoma Asian/Asian American community**C. Refaei, C. Parra, C. Mok, C. Zepeda and Bayard. Shared concern and thoughts regarding the Atlanta shooting and how best to protect the Tacoma elderly community. Shattered windows at Lucky Penny Café, missing community and trust, Pierce County Sheriff Troyer and feeling threatened by a black man delivering newspapers and other items were discussed and shared .
  2. **Chair/Vice Chair Nomination (continued from Feb 4th meeting)**

C. Sych accepted nomination for position of Vice Chair. C. Flores motioned for a vote of C. Sych to the Vice Chair role. C. Parra seconded. Motion approved.

1. **Community Affairs**

* **Community Engagement Committee**
  + There have been talks to dissolve this and focus more on the city staff assigned this duty. Try to get CIRA part of this group. Would like follow up with Kenny Coble on how to get involved.
* **Community Safety Committee** 
  + April 16 noon-1:30 is the community safety meeting. C Zepeda. Discussion around Asian hate. Develop social service around domestic violence. TPD looking to streamline interpretive services via an app. Need updates on using minors as interpreters.
* **Governance (of CIRA) Committee** 
  + No report at this time.
* **Language Access Committee**
  + Finalized proposal for policy and date to present is in the works. Document received by Chair and Vice Chair and Nick working on finalizing date.
* **NW Detention Center Committee** 
  + mixed attendance. Inconsistent info from Health Dept around vaccines at NWDC. March 31 is a vaccine category change and includes indvs in prisons and detention centers. Senate Bill 1090 going through Rules Committee. Keep encouraging representatives to support and pass.

1. **City Staff Updates** 
   1. Bayard: CVS 4:30 Chair and Vice Chair reintroduce CIRA to the committee. Clerk’s Office working to see what needs to happen to expand seats.
   2. Commissioners Mok, Rime and Nguyen last meeting. C Nguyen has reapplied and waiting to hear if he will be on for another term.
2. **Public Comment:** C Parra if anyone has BIPOC community members who need a Covid19 vaccine, I am helping people sign up for a clinic on Friday, March 26
3. **Items for next meeting. Library Director and policy work for Language Access**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.