

GARLAND
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Apodaca
Sunbola Ashimi
Dorothy Brooks
Joe L. Garcia
Dassa Giles
Hubert Hartin, Jr.
Koni Ramos Kaiwi
Virginia McClary
Jennifer Nguyen
Jaime Ornelas

STAFF:

Priscilla Wilson, Staff Liaison
Rosalinda Martinez, CMC Secretary
Mary Kayser, City Secretary

GUESTS:

None

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chair Koni Ramos Kaiwi.

Approval of Minutes

Hubert Hartin motioned to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2008 meeting; seconded by Jennifer Nguyen; approved unanimously.

Citizen/Guest Comments

None

Chair's Briefing

Koni Ramos Kaiwi stated Diana O'Hearn recently submitted her resignation from the CMC. Clay Womack and Adriana Sanchez Liberto had resigned prior to Ms. Hearn also. Koni stated she will contact the Mayor to inform him about the vacant seats. Koni asked the CMC members to encourage interested persons to submit their boards and commissions applications.

Koni reminded the CMC about the Garland Goes Green Event on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The event will be at the Firewheel Town Center.

Staff's Briefing

Priscilla Wilson stated that all CMC members should have received an invitation from the Fair Housing office regarding the 2008 National Fair Housing Month Program and Luncheon Celebration - "On the Sunlit Path" to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Downtown Senior Activity Center.

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Priscilla also invited everyone to attend the Garland Goes Green event on Saturday.

Priscilla provided the CMC with the "Who to Call" magnet which includes City of Garland department telephone numbers.

Priscilla stated that the Mayor is aware of the vacant seats on the CMC and will be making his appointments soon.

Priscilla stated that the CMC's budget report is still the same as what was provided previously to the CMC. Copies were provided to all.

Texas Open Meeting Act Presentation

Mary Kayser, City Secretary for the City of Garland provided a Summary of Provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. A one-hour video was also shown to the members. Under the Act, a governmental body's meetings must be open to the public unless a statute expressly permits a closed meeting. Information provided included: 1) Governmental Bodies, Quorums and Meetings; 2) Notice Requirements; 3) Procedures and Requirements for Holding Open and Closed Meetings; 4) Penalties and Other Consequences; and 5) Open Meetings Act Resources. Mary will provide those in attendance with a Certificate of Course Completion.

Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Dassa Giles Members: Jerry Apodaca, Sunbola Ashimi; Dorothy Brooks
Dassa stated that at this time there is nothing to report. Her committee will be meeting soon. Priscilla will provide this committee with a list of possible items for discussion.

Communication, Learning & Education Committee (CLUE)

Chair: Jaime Ornelas; Co-Chairs: Dorothy Brooks, Jennifer Nguyen

Jaime provided a committee report that included tasks for the year:

1) to develop a robust website to allow citizens a means to become knowledgeable of the various activities of the CMC and to share concerns which they would like the CMC to consider addressing; 2) to develop printed material about the CMC and to disseminate the same to the community; and 3) to develop a speaker's bureau (composed of CMC members).

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Dorothy Brooks provided a "draft" proclamation which will be submitted to the Mayor to present at the July 1, 2008 Council meeting. Dorothy asked the members to review it and to submit comments or changes at next month's CMC meeting. The proclamation will declare the month of July as Reconciliation Month and recommit Garland to stamp out the insidious nature of racism within the city limits.

Economic Opportunities Committee

Chair: Jaime Ornelas Members: Sunbola Ashimi, Dassa Giles
Jaime Ornelas provided a report at the last CMC meeting.

Events Committee

Chair: Sunbola Ashimi Members: Jerry Apodaca, Joe Garcia

Mosaic Festival Sub-committee

Koni stated that after Adriana Liberto's resignation, Koni had asked Virginia McClary to chair this committee. Virginia provided a report to the CMC with details of the meeting held with Bonnie Patrick (City of Garland) and Melody Kemp (Firewheel Town Center). Everyone is very excited about planning this event. Virginia stated that performers from previous years will be invited to participate this year again.

Naturalization Ceremony Sub-committee

Co-Chairs: Jaime B. Ornelas, Jerry Apodaca Member: Virginia McClary
Jaime provided a report to the CMC. This committee met with Bonnie Patrick (City of Garland). A date has been determined for this event to be held on Saturday, July 5, 2008. This date was approved by Mr. Alfonso Gonzalez from Homeland Security. The Mayor will sign a letter that will be given to Mr. Alfonso Gonzalez.

Health and Community Services Committee:

Chair: Dorothy Brooks Member: Virginia McClary
A report was provided detailing the action items for this committee. The committee is in the process of compiling and reviewing a comprehensive list of resources for health. After the list is completed, contact will be made with community groups to inform them about the list. Another action item is to work with the Code Compliance department to identify communal issues or concerns that affect significant numbers of individuals of cultural, ethnic or racial groups and educating the community of the issue and how to eradicate or curtail the issue. Contact has been made with the Code department for the CMC to volunteer in the Code Cares program.

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Public Safety Committee

There is not a Chair at this time due to Diana O'Hearn's resignation. Dorothy Brooks motioned that the Racial Profiling statistics be provided to all CMC members; seconded by Jerry Apodaca. Priscilla stated that the statistics received from Chief Mitch Bates will be provided to all the CMC members for their review and questions.

Announcements

Joe Garcia announced that there will be a GISD International Fair at the GISD Special Events Center on Friday, April 18, 2008 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Koni Kaiwi announced that there will be a Fiesta Latinoamerica event in Plano this weekend.

Adjourn

Jerry Apodaca motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.; seconded by Jaime Ornelas; approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Rosalinda Martinez
CMC Secretary

Koni Ramos Kaiwi
CMC Chair

Date

Date