


MINUTES OF THE MEETING
COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sunbola Ashimi
John Fleming
Dassa Giles
Koni Kaiwi, Chair
Martha Melaku
Jennifer Nguyen
Kaushalya Siriwardana
Deo Sookdeo

STAFF:

Priscilla Wilson, Staff Liaison
Rosalinda Martinez, CMC Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jerry Apodaca
Hubert Hartin, Vice Chair
Robert Smith

GUESTS:

None

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Chairperson Koni Kaiwi.

Approval of Minutes

Sunbola Ashimi motioned to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting; seconded by John Fleming; approved unanimously.

Guest Comments

None.

Chair's Briefing

On January 17, 2009, Koni, Jerry Apodaca, Dassa Giles, Sunbola Ashimi, John Fleming and Kaushalya Siriwardana participated in the Garland NAACP MLK parade.

On January 20, 2009, Koni attended an Inauguration celebration at the Beckly Brewhouse in Dallas to view the swearing-in ceremony for President Barack Obama.

On January 22, 2009, Koni attended a breakfast hosted by the Garland Chamber of Commerce to welcome a new Hispanic business to the community. Pilar Funeral Home is owned and operated by Marisol Trevizo. This will be a great venue for our Hispanic community. Ms. Trevizo was also introduced to the Hispanic Community at the Garland Police Department's UNIDOS meeting in January.

On January 23, 2009, Koni attended a meeting with DFW International. Koni is a member of DFW International. They are planning the Fiesta Latinoamericana Festival to be held on April 18, 2009 in Plano. Volunteers are still needed for this event.

On February 4, 2009, Koni attended the Community Leaders Group meeting with Garland Police Chief Mitch Bates.

On February 10, 2009, Koni attended an event at the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas. Koni previewed the documentary A CLASS APART, history telling of the case Hernandez vs. the State of Texas, allowing minorities to sit on juries.

On February 13, 2009, Koni met with Principal Clyde Schilling from Southgate Elementary to discuss the possibility of bringing the program Parents Step Ahead to the Garland Community. Koni feels that this will be a great way to obtain parental involvement in Garland schools. Mr. Lonnie Nichols, Asst. Superintendent was invited to attend the meeting also.

On February 13, 2009, Koni attended the Garland NAACP Winter Ball. Koni thanked the CMC for allowing her and Kaushalya the opportunity to represent the CMC. Koni stated she enjoyed the event tremendously and had the honor of sitting with Priscilla Wilson and her husband and Chief Bates.

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Staff Briefing

Priscilla Wilson stated that Deo Sookdeo, Martha Melaku and Robert Smith attended the New Member Orientation for 3 hours on February 11, 2009.

Priscilla will be accompanying City Council members to the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. in March.

Priscilla stated that the CMC brochures need to be updated to reflect the new 6:00p.m. meeting time. After the Census, another change to the brochure will be the ethnic makeup of Garland. The members agreed to use the remaining brochures and not update them until after the current supply is depleted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION:

The CMC discussed the current committee rosters. An updated roster will be provided at the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

The March agenda items will include the CMC Budget; the SS4th/Mosaic Festival; Committee Roster, and how the CMC will support future community events.

Announcements

Koni Kaiwi provided information about the following DFW International guides: 1) Guide to Scholarships; 2) Health Guide 3) ESL Guide; and 4) Guide for Newcomers. The free guides were distributed to the members.

Koni stated that she plans to travel to Austin on February 26, 2009 to attend the 2009 LULAC Legislative Gala.

Dassa Giles stated she will also be in Austin on March 16, 2009 to meet with legislators.

Dassa invited the CMC to attend the Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's 5th Annual Crimson and Cream Affair Gala. Jennifer Nguyen stated that she will check into purchasing a table for the DFW Asian American organization.

Adjourn

Sunbola Ashimi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:16p.m.; seconded by Dassa Giles; approved unanimously.

Submitted by: **Rosalinda Martinez, CMC Secretary**

Approved by Committee: **April 16, 2009**

Approved by: **Koni Ramos Kaiwi, CMC Chair**