

**GARLAND**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC)**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jerry Apodaca  
Sunbola Ashimi  
Dassa Giles  
Hubert Hartin, Vice Chair  
Koni Kaiwi, Chair  
Martha Melaku  
Jennifer Nguyen  
Kaushalya Siriwardana  
Robert Alan Smith

**STAFF:**

Priscilla Wilson, Staff Liaison  
Rosalinda Martinez, CMC Secretary

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Fleming  
Joe Garcia

**GUESTS:**

Deo Sookdeo  
Mayor Ronald E. Jones  
Council Member Douglas Athas

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Koni Kaiwi.

**Approval of Minutes**

Hubert Hartin motioned to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting; seconded by Sunbola Ashimi; approved unanimously.

After the approval of the minutes, the Chair announced that there were two new members present and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Guest Comments**

Deo Sookdeo stated that maybe the CMC could educate Garland immigrants about U.S./Garland laws and rules.

Council Member Douglas Athas stated he had just attended another meeting and wanted to sit in briefly.

Mayor Ronald E. Jones was also present briefly but had to leave for another commitment.

**Chair's Briefing**

Koni stated that Jaime Ornelas submitted his resignation.

Koni stated that there were two upcoming events and we will be discussing these: Garland NAACP MLK parade and the Winter Ball. Rosalinda will send information on the Winter Ball to everyone.

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**Staff Briefing**

Priscilla Wilson stated that the two new members Martha Melaku and Robert Alan Smith were recently appointed by the Mayor to serve on the CMC. Priscilla will schedule the New Member Orientation which will include the Open Meetings Act and the Robert's Rules of Order. She will schedule the meeting after Mr. Sookdeo has been appointed.

Council Member Barbara Chick will appoint someone to the CMC by the end of February.

Council Member Douglas Athas will be appointing someone at the January 20, 2009 council meeting.

Priscilla plans to meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair in the next few weeks.

**Election of Officers**

Dassa Giles announced that the nominations for Chair are closed. Since Jaime Ornelas resigned, his name is no longer on the slate.

The slate presented was as follows:

*Office of Chair: Koni Ramos Kaiwi*

A verbal ballot was cast. The 8 members present cast their ballot for Koni Kaiwi for Chair. The Chair position will be filled by Koni Kaiwi. Koni thanked everyone for voting for her. (Jerry Apodaca was not present for the election as he arrived late to the meeting.)

At the last meeting the election was held for Office of Vice Chair. The position was filled by Hubert Hartin.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ad hoc Committee - Status of Pending Report of Accomplishments**

Sunbola distributed handouts to CMC. The CMC discussed the 2007-08 Goals and the CMC Initiative Chart which included items to be placed on subcommittees.

**C.L.U.E. Committee**

Sunbola asked the CMC members to look at CMC page on City's website and to provide feedback at the next meeting. Dassa Giles volunteered to chair this committee and Robert Smith will co-chair.

Priscilla Wilson has information about the Speakers Bureau and will provide it at a future meeting.

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**Events Committee**

Sunbola Ashimi provided a report to the CMC. The Garland NAACP MLK parade will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. A truck was secured for the CMC to use for the parade. The vehicle will be decorated with CMC banners and flags. Everyone was invited to participate.

Dassa Giles motioned that the CMC purchase two tickets to the Garland NAACP Winter Ball to be held on Friday, February 13, 2009; seconded by Hubert Hartin and approved unanimously. The members decided that the Chair and Vice-Chair should attend and if one could not, a member would take their place to represent the CMC at the event.

At the next meeting, the CMC will discuss how they will support this type of community events.

**Future Agenda Items**

The CMC Budget will be discussed at the March meeting.

The CMC will tentatively plan for a presentation to the City Council at one of the July Council meetings.

**Announcements**

Dassa Giles announced that she is the president of her Sorority and there will be a fundraiser on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dallas Trade Mart. In the last 4 years, they have awarded GISD schools. The tickets are \$65.

Koni Kaiwi announced that on February 26 there will be a LULAC Legislative Gala in Austin. Tickets are \$100.

Koni announced that there will be a Diversity Conference on April 22-24. The website is [www.diversitycouncil.org](http://www.diversitycouncil.org).

**Adjourn**

Sunbola Ashimi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.; seconded by Robert Alan Smith; approved unanimously.

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

**Approved by Committee:** February 19, 2009

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