



COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

The COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS convened in a REGULAR meeting on MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023, at Austin City Hall, 301 W.2nd St, in Austin, Texas.

Chair MIRIAM DORANTES called the COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS regular meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Miriam Dorantes

Adrian De La Rosa

Rennison Lalgee

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Vice Chair Melissa Ortega

Fang Fang

Aditi Joshi

Adnan Suleiman

Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance:

Anjum Malik

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Bilingual Summer Program – Informed Commission on this important community initiative, Academia Cuauthli. They request a letter of recommendation from the commission for their summer programs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on October 3rd, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting of August 7, 2023 was approved on RENNISON LALGEE'S motion, ADRIAN DE LA ROSA'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: ANJUM MALIK absent)

2. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on December 5, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting of August 7, 2023 were approved on RENNISON LALGEE'S motion, ADRIAN DE LA ROSA'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: ANJUM MALIK absent)

3. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on June 5, 2022.
The minutes from the meeting of August 7, 2023 were approved on RENNISON LALGEE'S motion, ADRIAN DE LA ROSA'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: ANJUM MALIK absent)

STAFF BRIEFINGS

4. Staff briefing by Rocio Villalobos, Program Manager with the Equity Office regarding her job title and role with Austin immigrant communities.

Rocio supports the general work of equity office and immigrant affairs and hosts trainings such as the Undoing Racism training and facilitates the equity action team meetings. She works in partnership with other city departments. For example, she helped to work towards enhanced library cards to provide photo ids for community members, currently at 3 Austin Public Library locations. She has also worked on initiatives to help immigrant communities in partnership with American Gateways.

In September there is a citizenship clinic for those interested in applying for citizenship. The Equity Office also gives out mini grants and they will announce recipients in September to support our unhoused and immigrant folks.

If any new commissioner are interested in attending Undoing Racism they can attend.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Discussion on hosting a retreat for the COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

Miriam takes to heart representing so many immigrant folks in this city and said our recommendations impact them. She is frustrated by the attendance of this commission and feels a retreat will help to gain more connection and synergy and to get to know one another. Jeremy and Rocio can help organize this and can provide catering for this.

Dates/times to host –1st retreat: 9a - 12p w/food, Sept 15th Friday at PDC – in person!

- 2nd retreat: Nov 9th 9a-12p at PDC in-person!

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Discussion and possible action on passing a budget recommendation to City Council in support of Aztec Kids Code.

The motion to approve the support of budget recommendation was approved on FANG FANG's motion, ADITI JOSHI second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: ANJUM MALIK absent)

7. Discussion and possible action on forming a budget workgroup.

This workgroup is about political influence on City Council as the immigrant communities are impacted by these decisions made by the Commission. Commissioners Adnan Suleiman, Melissa Ortega, and Miriam Dorantes are interested in creating the workgroup and Jeremy Garza from the Equity Office is there to support.

Time commitment is whatever you want to put into it, usually meet 1x/month. If no one is interested, then if all commissioners agree, they don't have to have a budget workgroup if there's no interest.

Jeremy Garza, Business Process Consultant from Equity Office reads:

“Motion to designate a Budget Workgroup to investigate the challenges the immigrant community in Austin faces and determine what needs can be met by being included in the upcoming FY24-25 city budget. The workgroup can consist of community members and at max six commissioners (or one less than a quorum), and members will be added or removed by the commission as needed. Workgroup members are authorized to speak and work with other commissions on issues pertaining to the city budget. The workgroup will make periodic reports to the Commission as deemed appropriate and will conclude no later than the Commission's regular meeting in March 2024 and will deliver draft budget recommendations for the Commission to vote on, approve, and send to the city council by the Budget Recommendation deadline on March 30th, 2024.”

The motion to approve the budget workgroup was approved on RENNISON LALGEE'S motion, FANG FANG'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: ANJUM MALIK absent)

8. Discussion and possible action on conducting a Quality-of-Life Study on immigrant and refugee communities in Austin.

QoL Study was asked to be conducted through the Budget Workgroup. JIC decided they would prioritize 5 commissions that have not done a study at all and Commission on Immigrant Affairs is one of them.

Commission will need to hire a consultant and then create a report about budget line items for the immigrant communities of Austin. The Equity office will help support. No meeting will happen until after the retreat where they will discuss the QOL study.

Members who want to join the QOL Study working group are: Aditi Joshi, Rennison Lalgée, Miriam Dorantes, Melissa Ortega, Adrian De La Rosa.

The motion to approve the QOL STUDY was approved on ADITI JOSHI'S motion, RENNISON LALGEE'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: *ANJUM MALIK absent*)

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the endorsement of Community Investment budget.

Discussion part of the JIC that Commissioners Miriam Dorantes and Melissa Ortega attended. They discussed the recommendation about the Community Investment Budget to see if the Commission on Immigrant Affairs wants to recommend for City Council to adopt what's in the Community Investment Budget. JIC hasn't approved it yet. This is a collaboration between different organizations about the services that are typically underfunded in the community.

The motion to approve the ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BUDGET were approved on RENNISON LALGEE'S motion, ADRIAN DE LA ROSA'S second on a 7-0 vote. (COMMISSIONER: *ANJUM MALIK absent*)

Future Agenda Items:

Adrian wants to stay updated on the obstacles and learn more about the U-Visa via the Travis County Sheriff's Office. Adrian wants to stay updated on the APL enhanced library cards from Rocio.

Chair Miriam Dorantes adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the February 5, 2024 meeting on MELISSA ORTEGA's motion, VICTOR MARTINEZ's second on a (7-0) vote. (COMMISSIONER: *ANJUM MALIK absent*)