

Nashua Cultural Connections Committee Special Meeting/Jan 16, 2018 Minutes

Special guests :Mayor Jim Donchess and Police Chief: Andy Lavoie

Chair Deepa Mangalat called the meeting to order at 3:34pm, welcomed the gathering. And then introductions were made. There were 43 attendees at this meeting.

Sylvia gave an update about about HCR13 which was a legislation against intolerance of hatred and discrimination in NH.

Mayor Donchess reiterated that every new comer is welcome in Nashua.

Chief Lavoie echoed the sentiment and said everyone matters. He gave an account about how a Muslim lady was being teased and the police presence helped take care of that problem.

Their job is to protect and keep everyone safe. Nashua is no 1 in the nation safety wise! He extended an open invitation to have anyone come and talk to the police.

Lauren told the gathering that 76 countries are represented at the Adult Learning Center in Nashua.

Adult Learning Center has a new shared position with Nashua Community College to help students navigate process and access higher education.

Mayor Donchess talked about how helping small business and reaching out to their customer base can expand economic development and thus strengthen our community. Riverwalk owner has started a food blog on facebook and showcases a different eatery in the downtown area thus creating awareness and interest in that business.

Samba Halkose who works with the African community created a list of needs to bring them to the Mayor's notice:

Assistance with affordable housing/Transportation

After school activities; soccer

education accreditation/transfer of credits

cash assistance/food stamps (inadequate for their needs as rents are excessive

A Rohingya gentleman talked about his problem with a large bill (communication/language skills problem) that he could not afford to pay . Bob Mack (City Welfare) offered to help him sort out the paper work and help him understand the process. Mustak also offered to help and urged community member snot to apply for benefits.

Another question that was asked was about loan availability to start new business. Talk to James Vayo / City Hall and to call 589-3260. Tim Cummings the Economic Development Director can be contacted to find out about small business revolving Loan fund.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Gale