

**Cultural Connections Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2022**  
**9:00-9:34 am**

1. **Call to Order**

Margaret Loret, Chair  
Cultural Connections

Committee

The meeting was called to order by Margaret at 9:05 am.

2. **Roll Call**

Margaret Loret

Members present: Shanta Bist, Barbara Costa, Eric Drouart, Nony Egbuono, Samba Halkose, Adeline Hernandez, Jennifer Hosking, Wei Lin, Margaret Loret, Deepa Mangalat, Donna Marceau, Robert Ortiz, Josefina Perez, Sandra Regina Pratt, Gloria Timmons, and Cecilia Ulibarri.

Guests: Erin Cotton, Kath Palmer, and Bruno Soares

Excused absences: Elizabeth Berry, Bernadette Melton-Plante, and Rosemary Ford.

3. **Approval of the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

4. **Election of New Officers**

There are two vacant positions for officers at the moment – Vice Chair and Secretary.

**Margaret Loret** made a motion to nominate Elizabeth Berry for the position of Vice-Chair of the committee. Prof. Berry, Chair of the World Languages Department at the Nashua Community College has been involved in the committee activities for several years, serving as Chair of the Multicultural Festival Committee, Master of Ceremony of the Festival Committee and an active contributor to the committee activities. Her teaching background and knowledge of the ethnic community in Nashua and around make her the best qualified candidate for the position under consideration.

Elizabeth's nomination was approved unanimously by acclamation.

**Sandra Regina Pratt** nominated Eliane Cunha-Urgiles for the position of Secretary of the committee. Elaine, a newly sworn-in member of the Cultural Connections Committee, has already demonstrated her interest and involvement in the activities of the CCC by coordinating the Brazilian artistic performance at the Multicultural Festival in September 2021. Her background in office management, her immigrant experience and the experience of her family make her a perfect match for the committee Secretary.

Eliane's nomination for Secretary of the CCC was approved unanimously by acclamation.

## 5. **Other Business**

**Deepa Mangalat** announced that an Afghan family has arrived in Nashua and is in need of essential items to start a household. Deepa and her group have put together packages and donated them to the newcomers. There are still urgent needs in the area of education and employment to be addressed. The newly arrived immigrants are looking for housing and more household items.

**Samba Halkose** mentioned that the Adult Learning Center has already admitted Afghan students in their ESL program.

**Donna Marceau** announced the services and hours of operation of the Nashua Soup Kitchen.

**Nony Egbuono** announced a webinar on genders and orientations be held on February 7, 2022.

**Sandra Regina Pratt** reminded about her birthday fundraiser and invited everyone to participate in this charity event to be held on February 5, 2021. The purpose of the event is to solicit funds to benefit five non-profit ethnic organizations in Nashua in celebration of Sandra's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Donna Marceau** announced the services and hours of operation of the Nashua Soup Kitchen.

**Margaret Loret** repeated her request for the 2019 Multicultural Festival budget report from Cecilia. If the pandemic ends by the spring, the planning activities should start soon, particularly soliciting donations from larger businesses operating in Nashua as they make their charity fund allocations at the beginning of each year.

6. **Next meeting** will be held on February 23 at 9:00am in person and on zoom.

## 7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.