

Cultural Connections Committee

Nashua, NH

January 31, 2024, 12:00 PM

- Called to order at 12:05 pm

- Members present:
 - Jenn Hosking
 - Elizabeth Berry
 - Sandra Pratt (Zoom)
 - Donna Marceau
 - Iraida Muñoz, Nashua Public Health & Community Services
 - Lynne Boyer, YMCA (Zoom)
 - Margaret Loret
 - Noni-Emanuel Institute (Zoom)

- Also, in attendance:
 - Kerry Miller, Nashua Transit
 - Liz Hannum, Dir. Economic Development
 - Emily Vassar, Constituent Services & Cultural Affairs Coordinator; Mayor's Liaison (Zoom)
 - Mark Hastbacka, FBI
 - Eric Drouart (Zoom)
 - Betty Gioffre, Front Door Agency
 - Chelsea Laguerre, NH Hunger Solution
 - Loick Muyuka, NH SBDC
 - Magna Krieger, Harbor Care (Zoom)
 - Xola Rose Reddick, Harbor Care (Zoom)
 - Marina Zaz, Environmental Justice (Zoom)
 - Esteffany Sentler (Zoom)
 - Foqia Ijaz, DPHCS

- Introductions

- Donna Marceau:
 - Motion to review and approve minutes from the last meeting
 - seconded; members in favor: all; minutes approved

Cultural Connections Committee

Nashua, NH

January 31, 2024, 12:00 PM

- Nomination for offices: Donna Marceau for Chair President; All in favor; Vice President: Professor Berry; Accepted; All in Favor; Secretary: Robert Ortiz stepped down; nominated: Iraida Munoz; All in Favor
- Speaker-Liz Hannum, Director of Economic Development
 - The Co-Starter program will be run in English, Spanish and Portuguese
 - March 15th and 16th trainings for locals who will then teach in their communities
 - Up to 10 trainers; two-day Boot Camps; will provide insight for businesses, audiences, market, and regulatory issues
 - Accelerator program: 10-week program will consist of evening classes; no need to go through boot camp; 1-3 year old businesses will be eligible
 - A lot of under or unemployed in community; inexpensive programs to see more minorities
 - 9 designated businesses that are minority-owned; extra support for people around loans; stipend provided for trainers; marketing materials provided
 - Please refer people
 - Child Care businesses for minorities
 - Economic Mobility: ways to build a program to support unemployed people
 - Other support systems will depend on grant funding availability
 - DBE Business; low barrier for entry; easy lift for businesses; technical and financial support; goal is to double the number of businesses; regional Economic Development administration and some other organizations can help register
 - Language barrier- REDC has 12 languages; Triangle Credit Union can speak 38 languages for support; marketing campaign for the entire community
 - We want to reach out and build an accurate picture for Nashua
 - Discussion: Affordable Housing: 5k units in development; we are 8k units behind in the demand
 - 155 units on High Street parking lot (The Flats); Public parking underneath the building; public-private partnership; all are market rate units, as the developer bought out of the Inclusionary Zoning Stipulation; Studios and one-bedrooms only; start from \$2500 per month
 - Bidders submitting for Renaissance Park and Bicentennial Park; the statue will stay where it is, may move a foot or two
 - Q: How many out of 5k units will be affordable? A: 20 to 25% will be affordable; we want a mix of income in properties

Cultural Connections Committee

Nashua, NH

January 31, 2024, 12:00 PM

- NIMCO property is in the development phase; 20% of units will be affordable
 - Neighbor Works is a developer currently building in Nashua; the City is looking into this idea of partnering developers to see if it works, so in the future they can continue attracting developers with the same method (incentive-based building of more mixed-income or low-income housing)
- Discussion: Nonprofits should allow an hour of lunch to increase activity downtown
- Pedestrian data allows us to see the foot traffic downtown; helps small businesses with staffing management and hours of operation
 - Please reach out to Liz Hannum at hannuml@nashuanh.gov.
- Lyndsey Bond, Epidemiologist
 - Respiratory illnesses are seeing a downturn from a high peak for cold and flu season, very similar to last year
 - Wastewater Treatment Facility in Merrimack seeing a downturn in COVID-19
 - Number of deaths due to COVID-19 is stable
 - Vaccinations are hard to get as they are privatized
 - Uninsured can get vaccinated through Nashua Public Health Department
 - RSV and flu are hard to track as not required to track in NH
 - RSV vaccine is available for older adults and small children but expensive
 - PH and CH dept. have CHWs that provide education to the community
 - Community Health Dept runs mobile clinics periodically and clinics at schools
 - They collaborate with the hospitals including St. Joseph to do mobile clinics to reduce barriers for underinsured and uninsured individuals
 - Insurance navigators' main number in the chat for Harbor Care

General Discussion:

- Chinese New Year Celebration at YMCA on February 10th: food, arts and crafts, dancing
- Library hosting Endowment for Health on March 9th to provide info on resource-equity in education, housing, etc. for families with children 1 to 8 years old
- Tonight (1/30/24) at 6:00, there is a public comment session for the new design for the Library plaza
- Question: Why is Nashua Library closed on Friday? Answer: They are reviewing plans, and there is a lack of staff and low numbers on Fridays
- A Harbor Care staff member announced that if people lost Medicaid coverage, they can apply for insurance through the marketplace until July 31st, 2024

Cultural Connections Committee
Nashua, NH
January 31, 2024, 12:00 PM

- Next meeting: February 28, 2024 12:00 to 1:00 pm at City Hall Auditorium (hybrid option available)

Pending topics for discussion:

- Multicultural Festival subcommittee- Iraida Munoz nominated for Chairperson; Jenn Hosking to stay on as committee member; other members are welcome to join the Multicultural Festival subcommittee
- An attorney from the NH Attorney General's office will talk about the rise in hate crimes.

Adjournment at 1:00 PM

Next Meeting: February 28, 2024
Auditorium, City Hall, 12:00 PM