

Minutes of the February 24, 2021
Cultural Connections Committee

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 by Deepa Mangalat, Chairman.

Present: Deepa Mangalat; Samba Halkose; Donna Marceau; Nonyem Egbuonu; Margaret Loret and Elizabeth Lu; and Sandra Pratt.

Absent: Jessica Ayala, Vice Chairman-Excused; Jenn Hosking; Bernadette Melton-Plante-Excused; Jessica Gorhan; Rosemary Ford; Lauren Osowski; Mohammad Arif; Eric Drouart; Adelina Reyes Hernandez; Shoshanna Kelly; Sue Lovering; Amanda Martinez; Sharon Saunders; Cecilia Ulibarri.

Also Attending: Fahmina Zahman, Mark Hastbacka, Carlos Camacho of NPD, Matt Giftos of NPD, John Savage, Gen. Manager of First Transit, Camille Pattison: Nashua Transit Manager, Angela Wesson, Transit Mobility Manager, and Carrie Schena, Manager, City of Nashua Urban Programs.

Margaret Loret moved to accept the minutes of the January 27th meeting, Sandra Pratt seconded.

Presentations:

Camille Pattison, Nashua Transit Manager, presented on the Transit System. Ms. Pattison introduced recent City hire **Angela Wesson**, Mobility Manager, who will be tasked with communication and transit services for those with mobility issues. She also introduced **John Savage**, General Manager for First Transit, the City's contractor for drivers and dispatch. Discussion and information included that 15% of the cost of running our transit department comes from City funding; the rest is comprised of state and federal grants, local contracts,

farebox and advertising revenue. The city has ten full size busses that run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), two Electric Hybrids, nine 'Low Floor' vans with primarily fueled with gasoline, and a Trolley. During the pandemic, the transit services increased 'On Demand' availability for those in need of it. There are three night-service routes that run until 10:45 p.m. This department is run by a team of five administrators, five vehicle and facility maintenance workers, and all vehicles are City owned.

Carrie Schena, Manager of Urban Programs for the City of Nashua delivered an overview of the City administration's next round of Covid19 relief (CARES ACT) for small businesses, and how our members can access those funds and/or help to inform the larger community on how to apply. She reported that this final round of Federal funds includes approximately \$483,000 in **grants** available to eligible Nashua business owners. The funds are targeted to **for profit business owners** who are low income, disadvantaged individuals or who employ such individuals. The funds are available to provide relief for expenses or loss of revenue that directly result from the impact of Covid19.

Together with COVID19 Relief **loans** through the economic development office, the total funding for COVID19 economic relief made available through these two programs will approach \$1.2 million dollars. The application period runs February 25 - March 14th, so please help get this information to people. The web-based application is accessed via <https://www.nashuanh.gov/1122/Tax-Incentives>

Or by going to Economic Development on the Nashua City website and choosing COVID-19 Impact Fund.

Lt. Carlos Camacho announced that incoming **Community Policing Coordinator, Barbara Costa**, will represent the Police Department at these meetings. She can be reached at CostaB@nashuapd.com.

Lt. Camacho also announced the appointment of **Detective Matt Giftos of the Nashua Police Department** to the position of task force officer with the FBI.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Lu, Secretary