



Cultural
Connections
Committee

Gate City Immigrant Initiative

May 23, 2018

9:00AM – 10:30AM

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

Gate City Immigrant Initiative is a subcommittee of the Nashua Cultural Connections Committee.

Present: Jenn Hosking (Co-Chair), Lauren Osowski (Co-Chair), Carlos Camacho, Erin Cotton, Pastor Richard Cullen, Becky Field, Sylvia Gale, Steve Genest, Samba Halkose, Paul Janampa, Deepa Mangalat, Shayana Owen, Yoly Rivero-Lara, Cecilia Ulibarri, Gaston Gros, Stephen Vega, Dinesh Chauwan

Commenced at 9:05am

1. Call to Order/Introductions

2. Co-Chair updates

- Lauren reminded the group that June 20th is World Refugee Day. The Adult Learning Center will host a celebration 11-12pm that is open to the public. There will be a proclamation from the mayor celebrating refugees and the contribution they make to our community.
- Lauren discussed a meeting between NH's Education Commissioner and local immigrants and refugees. He provided parents talking points for advocating for their students and answered many questions they had regarding the education system. Many of the questions stemmed from communication barriers. A discussion ensued about what can be done to address this issue.
- Lauren mentioned Muhammad Mustak's presentation about the Rohingya culture is postponed until June.

3. Resettlement Agency update

- Ascentria – Dinesh Chauwan reported there have been 47 arrivals to date in FY18. In FY19 the forecast for arrivals is fewer. Twenty more refugees are anticipated to arrive this year, but that could come in doubt if there are changes to current executive orders or changes in family connections.
- International Institute- No report.

4. Member updates

- Erin Cotton, Representative from Congresswoman Kuster's office shared the ability for staff at this office to constituents with immigration and visa issues through collaborations with federal agencies like U.S.C.I.S.
- Sylvia shared an event organized by Hannah Monique as a senior project at the Derryfield School. It is a rally for youth minorities at Arms Park in Manchester on Sunday, May 27th 1-3pm. Youth representing a variety of nations will come and share stories.
- Cecilia shared plans to attend a Welcoming America conference in July to learn more about what Nashua can be doing as a Welcoming City. She also mentioned planning is ongoing for Nashua's Multicultural Festival on September 15th 12-4pm as a kickoff event to Welcoming Week. OGN is also working on events in Nashua to celebrate that week.
- Becky Fields mentioned her exhibit at Dimond Library, UNH will be extended a month and expressed her excitement that it is engaging students in related projects. She also mentioned REDC micro loans for New Americans are beneficial for entrepreneurs.
- Stephen Vega reminded the group about the City's lead paint program which helps education residents about the dangers of lead paint. It also provides grants of up to \$9,000 for landlords to remedy lead paint in properties.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 – 9:00 AM-10:30 AM at Nashua City Hall Auditorium