



Cultural Connections Committee

Cultural Connections Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 26th, 2021, 9-10:00am

The mission of the Cultural Connections Committee is to facilitate communication between the community and city government by encouraging understanding and appreciation of culture, diversity and inclusion in the City of Nashua.

I. Call To Order : Chair Deepa Mangalat called the meeting to order at 9am.

11. Roll Call : Secretary Elizabeth Lu

111: Members Present:

Deepa Mangalat, Nonyem Egbuonu, Donna Marceau, Samba Halkose, Elizabeth Lu, Eric Drouart, Margaret Loret, Jenn Hosking, Bernadette Melton-Plante and Sandra Pratt. Also Attending: Fahmina Zahman, Angela Wesson, Patte Ardizzoni, Meghan Bolton, Paul Shea, Andrea Infante, Jessica Gorhan, Kevin Pucillo, Nelly G, and Cecilia Ulibarri.

1V Minutes to be approved:

Sandra Pratt moved to accept the minutes of the April 21st meeting, seconded by Margaret Loret.

V: Chair's Report:

Deepa commended the hard work of our Public Health Department and others who contributed to the successful efforts of our Covid 19 vaccination effort. She also shared her personal knowledge of what residents of India are experiencing with the surge of the virus and concurrent shortages of supplies. She spoke on this committee's anticipated participation in the Welcoming Week program in September (10th – 19th). She also called again for holidays and days of celebration that are observed among Nashua's population.

Other Discussions:

Fahmina Zaman stated announced that there was to be an Asian American Rally Against Hate at Greeley Park on June 2nd from 6:30-7:30 and all are invited.

The Nashua Public Library will be hosting a Juneteenth event on June 19th at 11 a.m. at the library.

Nashua will hold the Pride Festival remotely again this year on June 26th, possibly followed in October with an in-person event, if public safety allows.

Sandra Pratt announced opportunities to support Gateways Community Services by donating to and participating in its October 15th Virtual Celebration of 40 Years of Service.

Cecilia Ulibarri has attended a Welcoming City Conference and she shared some innovative ideas for the Welcoming Week which included a roster of Zoom cooking classes featuring traditional ethnic dishes from our community's kitchens, or a similar offering of Zoom style traditional dance instruction. Here's a link to the Welcoming America conference session on "Cross-culinary kits & classes" events: <https://youtu.be/qGeffchmWU8>

Barbara Costa, from NPD announced that National Night Out, a community police awareness event, will be held this year on August 3rd from 5-7:30 at the Boys and Girls Club of Nashua. Big first responder vehicles can be toured and touched.

Jessica Gorhan provided an update on SNAP/EBT benefit eligibility. The benefits have increased and the public charge is removed. 'Pandemic EBT' is currently available for families of 5 with family income under \$60,000. Please speak with Jessica Gorhan for details.

Regarding the Center for Women and Enterprise, Donna Marceau raised the issue as to why they pulled their office out of Nashua. Their office was in a good, downtown location, easy for clients who accessed it! She also noted the Gate City Bike Co-op was a Big Success! Thanks to Deepa, Cecilia, Paul Shea, and Jessica Ayala for helping to advertise this.

The next meeting of the Committee is June 23rd, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:52am

**Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Lu**