



Cultural Connections Committee

Cultural Connections Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 25th, 2021

9:04-am – 9:32 am

City Hall Auditorium

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

Deepa Mangalat, Chair

Deepa called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

II. Roll Call

Cecilia Ulibarri

Members Present: Chairwoman Deepa Mangalat, Vice Chairwoman Jessica Ayala, Cecilia Ulibarri, Eric Drouart, Jennifer Hosking; Nonny Egbuono, Lauren Ossowski, Sandra Pratt, Bernadette Melton-Plante, Paul Shea, Margaret Loret

III. Nomination for the Committee Chair

Deepa Mangalat nominated Margaret Loret for the position of Chair of Cultural Connections Committee. Bernadette Melton-Plante seconded. All approved.

V. Welcoming Week Report

Deepa Mangalat

The Welcoming Week festivities will take place at Greeley Park on September 12, 3:00 -6:00pm. The Welcoming Week Committee meets every Monday to discuss progress. The performing groups have been invited and confirmed. DJ who originally agreed to assist on September 12 cancelled his

appearance due to unexpected commitment at the hospital where he works. Since NH Council for the Arts pays only artists' stipend, United Way agreed to cover the DJ's fee. Margaret is looking for the DJ's replacement.

Mark Hastbacka assured the members that he doesn't anticipate problems that day. He mentioned that a white supremacist group, NSC 131, that has been showing up in Nashua targeting the Board of Education, is not expected in Nashua on September 12.

VI. Other Business

Bernadette raised a question about the election of the remaining officers, particularly the Secretary, and the mode of conducting future meetings. A discussion followed whether the group is allowed to meet virtually in view of the lifted state of emergency in New Hampshire. Bruno Soares found an ordinance on public meetings, RSA 91-A:1-a that allows for hybrid public meetings with a stipulation that a physical quorum is required.

Nonny questioned the validity of the ordinance RSA 91 arguing that the situation now is different than before the pandemic, and the presence of members on zoom should be treated equally as those in person because the Cultural Connections Committee is a public committee.

Bernadette asked whether future meetings are going to be in person or virtual. Margaret said that a message will be sent to members to inform them about the format of meetings.

Sandra Pratt reminded everyone about the Brazilian Fest to be held in Greeley Park on August 28.

Bernadette thanked Deepa Mangalat, the outgoing Chair of the Cultural Committee, for her leadership and commitment over the past years. Others joined her in expressing appreciation for Deepa's efforts and accomplishments.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept.22, 2021 from 9-10 am.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Loret