



Cultural
Connections
Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020

I. Call To Order : Chair Deepa Mangalat at 9:00 am

The mission of the Cultural Connections Committee is to encourage understanding and appreciation of Ethnic Diversity in the City of Nashua and to facilitate communication between the ethnic community and city government

II. Roll Call: Secretary Elizabeth Lu

III Members Present: Deepa Mangalat, Donna Marceau, Cecilia Ulibarri, Sandra Pratt, Margaret Loret, Rosemary Ford, Jenn Hosking, Fahmina Zaman, Jessica Ayala, Elizabeth Lu and Bernadette Plante.

Also, joining at about 9:40 was Sarah Marchant.

IV. Chair's Report: Deepa Mangalat requested that all submissions of ethnic recipes be submitted directly to the web address given previously, because the backgrounds on the dishes and contributor's families is meant to be part of the cookbook. Also, a group of Nepalese and Indian community members have hosted meals on Sundays at the Nashua Soup Kitchen that celebrate these cuisines.

V. Communications and /or Presentation:

Sarah Marchant, Director of the Community Development Office, provided a presentation on the formation and status of the Master Planning Committee. She explained that this process takes about a year, involves many meetings open to the public and other stakeholders to solicit input on the future of Nashua. She also emphasized that the final product will become the "Backbone of Land Use Planning for the City of Nashua.

Jessica Ayala from Public Health and Community Services talked about the immunization clinics held outside the Elm Street School on Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m. and Fridays from 10-12. Also, she announced a lead conference is coming up and can be accessed online for no cost. Finally, Covid19 testing is available on Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. at the Elm Street garage, by the entrance near City Hall. Preregistration is encouraged via the City of Nashua website/Board of Health. Walkin registration is also possible.

Jenn Hosking Assistant Director of the Nashua Public Library discussed efforts underway to gather suggestions from patrons on adapting services to Covid19 and flu season. She says that there are laptops available for public use inside the library by reservation. The library has also obtained a new device that allows patrons to charge their devices, while safely locked in place. At this point, the library does not have Zoom accounts available to patrons.

Fahmina Zaman of Bridges gave an update on the progress on the move to the new offices at the old Red Cross Building on Concord Street.

Donna Marceau of the Nashua Soup Kitchen provided an update on the Nashua Soup Kitchen pantry hours which are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12-3 p.m. On other business, she encouraged including bus routes to out of town employment opportunities, such as the Merrimack Outlets and continuing efforts to expand rail transport to Nashua.

Cecilia Ulibarri Constituent Services Coordinator for Mayor Donchess, provided an update on the shutdown of City Hall and how the six members of the staff that did test positive are faring.

The motion was made to nominate Jessica Ayala for Vice Chairman of the Cultural Connections Committee. The nomination was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Lu, Secretary