

Minutes of the December 16, 2020
Cultural Connections Committee

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

Present: Deepa Mangalat; Jessica Ayala, Vice Chairman; Jenn Hosking; Bernadette Melton-Plante; Jessica Gorhan; Samba Halkose; Donna Marceau; Rosemary Ford; Nonyem Egbuonu; Lauren Osowski and Elizabeth Lu.

Also Attending: Fahmina Zahman, Bruno Soares; Henry Harris and Gerusha.

Bernadette Moved to Accept the Minutes of the November 18 meeting, Jenn Hosking seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Deepa thanked those who attended the December planning sessions. The secretary read briefly from the notes from the sessions. Noted were written contributions from Bernadette, Jenn Hosking, and Eric, and points discussed in person by others. Some points include: concentrate efforts on two or three projects annually; have a meeting agenda that communicates the 'value proposal' of the meeting (in terms of subject matter or specialist presenter) as well as a group discussion point that can allow members to collaborate on

problem solving of common trouble points. Also, meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month from 9-10 a.m. and participant updates will be saved for the end when all can benefit from them.

Elizabeth made a motion to move the members' updates of their individual organizations to the final item of business; Bernadette seconded it, and the motion passed by a show of hands.

Discussion:

Henry Harris talked about the Rent and Utility Assistance which is coordinated through Southern NH Services and he advised that the deadline to apply is December 18th.

Donna Marceau announced that the mobile produce dispensaries are now indoors - Tuesdays at the YMCA – Wednesday at the First Church - Thursdays at Crossways. Also, families with need for Christmas meals can pick up boxed meals at the Soup Kitchen.

Jessica Ayala reported on the Division of Public Health and Community Services. They are anticipating a spike of new cases after and stemming from the upcoming holidays. She spoke about the tiered system in development for the scheduled vaccination for Covid 19.

Bernadette reported that CASA is in need of many new recruits for Guardian ad litem.

Lauren Osowski reported on the Adult Learning Center. Classes continue as online but will possibly begin in class on January 11th.

Samba shared with the group programs of the Main Street United Methodist Church which may be of interest to others – a Tuesday 7 p.m. “Shine a Light on Injustices” and a partnership with the United Way to “Keep Seniors Company” with a letter campaign.

Bruno spoke about bills working their way through our NH State legislature that will effect immigrants in our community.

The next meeting of the Cultural Connections Committee will be January 27, 2021.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Lu