



"Our Strength is in Our Diversity"

Benjamin T. Opara, Chair
Rev. Cecilio Hernández
Maria Cunha
Robert Gignac
Way Sai Kyi
Kate Lessard
Donna McIntosh
Elinor Mondale, Secretary
Vesna Nuon
Joseph Varnie

Lowell Immigration Assistance Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2013

Present: Robert Gignac, Reverend Cecilio Hernandez, Metrey Keo, Wai Sai Kyi, Donna McIntosh, Elinor Mondale, Ben Opara

Absent: Maria Cunha, Kate Lessard, Vesna Nuon, Joseph Varnie, Sarah Golding

Ben Opara, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Robert Gignac moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Seconded by Cecilio Hernandez and approved by those present.

There followed a discussion of the African Festival to be held on the 15th with agreement on who would sit in the Commission booth and who would set it up. A schedule was agreed upon.

Under Old Business, the Updating of the city website was discussed. The Commission should have a link when it is completed.

Henri Marchand from the City Manager's office was introduced. He chairs a Problem Property Taskforce which is modeled after one in Boston. It brings representatives of all city departments together (including Fire and Police) to identify problem properties and determines who to contact regarding the problems. A very complete list of potential problems was shared with the Commission. This is the checklist used when an inspection is being done.

Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services, then explained that all building inspectors report to him. Under the new ordinance, the city was divided into three groups alphabetically in order to do a third of the rentals every year. HD apartments are exempted.

It was announced that representatives of the Dominican Republic will be in Lowell on July 19 and 20. There will be a flag raising on that Friday and it would be good to have representatives from the Commission there.

The next meeting will be on July 8 at 5:30.

Ben Opara made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Donna McIntosh.

Respectfully Submitted by Elinor Mondale, Secretary