

LOWELL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2013

Chairman Ben Opara opened the meeting.

Present: Ben Opara, Sarah Golding, Rev. Cecilio Hernandez, Metrey Keo, Elinor Mondale

Absent: Maria Cunha, Way Sai Kyi, Kate Lessard, Donna McIntosh, Vesna Nuon, Robert Gignac, Joseph Varnie.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the single exception of the spelling of Metrey's first name in the stationary heading. It should be "Metrey". Approval was moved by Rev. Hernandez and seconded by Sarah.

Our new member, Sarah Golding, was introduced.

Ben Opara thanked the Commission members for participation in the African Festival, and suggested that we get a list of countries from which refugees are coming so they might participate in the Festival in the future. Elinor said she would contact the International Institute while Metrey said he would send copies of the report of One Lowell to the members.

There was concern about the low attendance and Ben said he would get a list of the members and their term limits. Then he will contact the missing members to ensure their continued interest.

There will be no meeting in August, but there will be representation of the Commission at the Water Festival on August 17. There will be a flag raising ceremony with visitors from the Dominica Republic on August 19. Rev. Hernandez will send out specific information when he has it.

The next meeting will be on September 18 at 5:30. There was some discussion about a speaker at the next meeting and suggestions included the temporary Chief of Police or a Race Relations representative.

It was also pointed out that the Manager is establishing a Search Committee for a new Chief of Police. The Commission hopes to have a representative on it.

Metrey moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Rev. Hernandez.

Submitted by Elinor Mondale, Secretary