



"Our Strength is in Our Diversity"

Benjamin T. Opara, Chair
Elinor Mondale, Secretary
Rev. Cecilio Hernández
Maria Cunha
Robert Gignac (School Committee)
Way Sai Kyi
Kate Lessard
Donna McIntosh
Vesna Nuon (City Councillor)
Joseph Varnie
Metrey Keo
Sarah Golding

LOWELL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2013

The Commission met at 5:30 in the City Council Chamber.

Present: Benjamin T. Opara (Chair), Elinor Mondale (Secretary) Philippe D.Candido, Sarah Golding, Metrey Keo, Way Sai Kyi, Donna McIntosh, Vesna Nuon.

It was announced that Kate Lessard and Maria Cunha had resigned from the Commission.

There was a discussion of where we want to see the city in ten or fifteen years. This discussion will be continued at future meetings. There was agreement that a more immigrant-friendly RMV is essential for many refugees, but especially those from Burma. In order to get jobs, refugees need licenses, but are not permitted to bring interpreters into the test. Driver tests are offered in some foreign languages, but not in any of the Burmese languages.

While the RMV is not a city agency, the Commission hopes the City Manager might be able to wield some influence.

Our new member, Philippe D. Candido, was introduced and talked about his background.

A search committee for a new police chief is being established and it is hoped that a Commission member might be on it.

There was some discussion of our getting a link on the city website. And we were reminded that we are on Google Group.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Monday October 28 at 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned promptly because another committee was scheduled to use the space.

Respectfully submitted

Elinor Mondale (Secretary)