



# GARLAND

## COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION (CMC) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2012

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Nguyen, Chair  
Martha Melaku, Vice-Chair  
Dassa Giles  
Deo Sookdeo  
Dorothy Brooks  
Henry Hammons, II  
Hubert Hartin  
Janet L. Bridges  
Minerva Moreno  
Monica Reyes  
Susie Rutherford

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kaushalya Siriwardana  
Ricardo Rocha

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Priscilla Wilson  
Cheryl Ziriak

### **GUESTS/CITIZENS:**

Mayor Ronald E. Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem  
John Willis  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Preston Edwards

### **Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Nguyen.

### **Mayor and Council Comments:**

The Mayor Ronald E. Jones, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Preston Edwards, and Mayor Pro Tem John Willis were in attendance at the meeting. The CMC members unanimously approved to move the business until after the Mayor and Council members spoke. The Mayor and City Council will be reviewing each of the City's Boards & Commissions and will begin with the CMC. They will be reviewing the policies and will be making recommendations. The first formal meeting regarding the CMC will be in December 2012. If the CMC members have questions or input, they may email or phone the Mayor and/or Council members. In light of the review, the Mayor wants the CMC to postpone the nominations and elections of the chairperson and vice-chairperson until they have met with the CMC liaison and chairperson. Chairperson Jennifer, thanked the Mayor and City Council entrusting the CMC to organize the *We The People* Conference. Garland's CMC is a model for other cities.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Minerva; second by Henry to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting; approved unanimously.

### **Citizen Comments:**

None.

### **Chair's Briefing:**

Jennifer has spoken with the Asian American Media, Community Leaders, and Sponsors of the *We The People* Conference (*WTPC*) and has been given very positive feedback. Some sponsors have indicated that if we hold the *WTPC* every year, they are willing to increase their sponsorship level. A thank you to Minerva, Dassa, and Hubert for attending the Asian American Senior Dinner and talking with the attendees; about 50 came to the *WTPC*.

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On Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, Ricardo Rocha, Council Member Dodson and Asian Media did a community walk. They found many issues in the community and have been able to fix at least 5 of the issues saving the community thousands of dollars. Jennifer appreciates what Ricardo and Council Member Dodson are doing for their district.

Jennifer was in attendance at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> dinner with the DFW Asian American Citizens Council Chairman and he shared his positive feedback on the *WTPC* also.

In attendance at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Leaders meeting were Bill Dollar, Chief Bates, Jennifer, GAFHA and NAACP representatives. Chief Bates discussed racial profiling and the newest incident that Dorothy Brooks brought to their attention, as well as other issues. The CMC will be included in future press releases.

Jennifer organized and hosted the Vietnamese Fighter Pilots Reunion on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

An appreciation dinner for the *WTPC* Chairs was held at Gloria's restaurant on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer thanked Priscilla for organizing this event.

Jennifer has been invited and will be speaking at the Tarrant County Asian American Annual Awards night on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. She was nominated and officially made one of their members.

The Taiwan Delegation, consisting of 25 people, attended the *WTPC*. CMC was able to provide them with some extras from the Leadership Breakfast. The Vietnamese paper had several pictures and a big article in the paper about the *WTPC*. Jennifer made a great connection at the Leadership Breakfast with Major General James L. Williams' wife. They would like to be involved in whatever activities Jennifer is involved.

**Staff Briefing:**

The annual Boards & Commissions Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at The Atrium. They have a speaker and are usually finished by 8:00 p.m. Due to a prior commitment Priscilla is unable to attend this year.

The Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the Curtis Culwell Center. The cost is \$35 per person. Motion made by Janet; second by Dorothy to have CMC represented at the December 6<sup>th</sup> Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast (Janet and Dorothy will attend); approved unanimously.

The annual Christmas on the Square will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the tree lighting at 7 p.m.

Priscilla shared a thank you letter from our guest last month, Pat Greer, for our assistance in providing transportation to and from the *WTPC* event. She was especially touched by the Naturalization Ceremony when the "Oath of Allegiance" was taken by the individuals from many nations. The letter will be scanned and added to the CMC website. Priscilla has received numerous compliments from citizens, even those who have suggested that we hold the conference every year. It was very well received.

Police Chief Mitch Bates is very willing and happy to come and speak with the CMC. CMC needs to decide on at least 2 dates and what topic(s) the CMC would like him to discuss.

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Suggested topics are: an update on racial profiling in Garland; make-up of the Police Force (race and gender; what is being done with recruiting; and what diversity training is being provided); and Community Involvement (what community efforts are underway by the Police Department; how can CMC Members be involved; and who are the NPO's for each district). The two proposed dates agreed upon by the commission are February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>.

November is the CMC's celebration dinner. The CMC will discuss the dinner details.

**Compliance with Texas Open Meetings Act:**

The agenda has been updated to be in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The citizens need to know in more detail what will be discussed than what has been on the agenda in the past. Future agenda items are items that we would like to discuss in the future. Anything that is not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed at that meeting. The CMC should model its meetings after the City Council meetings.

**Committee Reports/Discussion:**

**Ad hoc Committee**

- The Mayor requested that the CMC table the elections process. The CMC will not have nominations and elections until further discussions with the Mayor and City Council. Motion made by Dassa; second by Janet for the CMC's Bylaws, Article 9, Section 5 be suspended as a result of the executive decision of the Mayor and delay it until the Mayor releases his decision due to the review of the CMC by the Mayor and City Council; approved unanimously.

**Communication, Learning, Understanding & Education (CLUE)**

- No report.

**Community Services**

- No report.

**Multicultural Affairs**

- **Event Updates**
  - *"We The People"* Conference Feedback
    - Minerva felt it was very well planned and orchestrated. Everyone that was asked agreed to help with it. Jennifer brought in a lot of sponsorships. Felt it was very well publicized and the gifts were very nice. She hasn't heard any negative comments. It was felt by several that we were competing with the Healthy Living Expo and felt it would be better not to have the two events held at the same time. Everyone did an excellent job. It was well received. The City Staff did a lot of work and put in a lot of extra time.
    - Dassa felt the event went very well; the leadership did a great job. Priscilla and her office did a lot for the event. The Senior Event was located away from the other concurrent sessions, so they felt they were removed from the event. The Naturalization Ceremony was very moving – it gave her goose bumps. She felt the chairperson used 'I' too much. Should have focused more on the collaboration of the committee instead.
    - Dorothy felt it was a very great event. Enjoyed that everyone was involved in the event including the video message from the President

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of the United States during the Naturalization Ceremony. Also liked the video/powerpoint that Yolanda and Beth put together. The Naturalization Ceremony had quite a few people with tears in their eyes; very moving. Since the Chairs of the subcommittees were not CMC members it gave us an opportunity to work together with others from the community. Dorothy felt there was some disconnect in communication among the subcommittees at times.

- Susie felt the 2 hours that she spent at the CMC table in the Healthy Living Expo were spent answering questions regarding the flu shots and was completely separated from the *WTPC* event.
- Hubert felt the bus transportation from the Healthy Living Expo to the *WTPC* area was not very efficient. Felt he could have walked faster.

**CMC Monthly Meeting Dates:**

**November 15, 2012** – We will have an abbreviated agenda in order to have our annual celebration potluck dinner. The staff will provide 2 meats (Cajun Turkey and Ham). The Mayor, City Council, Police Chief, Fire Chief, City Staff (Beth and Rosie), and CMC spouses and volunteers are invited to attend. CMC members should submit attendee names to Cheryl no later than Monday so we will know if we need to find a larger venue to accommodate everyone. A sign-up sheet for food was passed for CMC members to indicate what they would provide for the dinner.

**January 17, 2013**

**February 21, 2013**

**Future Events:**

**November 1, 2012** – COG Boards & Commissions Dinner

**December 6, 2012** – Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast

**December 6, 2012** – Christmas on the Square

**Future Agenda Items:**

Proposed Budget 2012-2013

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Martha; second by Deo to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Cheryl Ziriak, CMC Secretary

**Approved by Committee:** November 15, 2012

**Approved by:** Jennifer Nguyen, CMC Chair Chair