



Hamilton

Minutes IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 12, 2020
City Hall 71 Main St. W.
Room 192, 6:30pm

Present: Dina Honig, Aref Alshaikhahmed, Rami Safi, Leslyn Gombakomba

Also Present: Paul Di Clemente, Staff Liaison

Regrets: n/a

Absent: Anjum Chauhan, , Al Karsten, Wahleed Aslam

Chair: Rami Safi (Vice Chair)

Welcome and Introductions

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

- Land Acknowledgement
- R. Safi – expressed condolences for the passing of former Chair of this committee Mary Robins. Card was sent on behalf of the committee. As Vice Chair R. Safi to be acting Chair

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(R. Safi/ D. Honig)

Immigrant and Refugee Agenda for March 12, 2020 approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

N/A

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 June 13, 2019
- 4.2 No Quorum Notes - September 12, 2019
- 4.3 No Quorum Notes - January 9, 2020
- 4.4 No Quorum Notes - February 13, 2020

(A. Alshaikhahmed/ R. Safi) Motion to approve the June 13, 2019 minutes as presented and to approve the No Quorum Notes of September 12, 2019, January 9, 2020, and February 13, 2020 Respectively

CARRIED

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Alshaikhahmed – It is important that the committee think about making connections and communication with immigrants and refuses to see how the committee can represent them. It is important to establish linkage to the community.

D. Honig – Currently sits on the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council committee which is meeting once a month. The Chair of this committee is to be sitting on that committee.

L. Gombakomba – Expressed concern regarding reaching out to refugees are associated with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council.

Aref Alshaikhahmed – Proposed that we invite someone from HIPC to attend the committee to give a presentation.

(A. Alshaikhahmed)

MOTION: That A. Alshaikhahmed, on behalf of the Advisory committee for Immigrants and refugees, will attend the Syrian Community Committee

P. DiClemente – We will have to inquire as to whether a member of this committee can be a formal representative of this committee on the Syrian Community Committee. Will check with the Legislative Clerks Office. There is nothing wrong with Aref attending that committee as a private citizen and reporting back to the committee, however, if you are requesting to become an official representative of the I&R Committee to the Syrian Community Committee that is something we would need to seek approval for.

(A. Alshaikhahmed/D. Honig) Motion to Table to the previous motion until the Syrian Refugee Committee is organized in June and until we receive a response from the Clerks office.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

6.1 Cameron Kroetsch for the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, All Advisory Committee meeting and Standing Committee of Council that Advisory Committees currently report to (for a future meeting)

(R. Safi/ A. Alshaikhahmed) Motion to approve the delegation request of Cameron Kroetsch.

CARRIED

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Member Resignation

(R. Safi/D. Honig) – Motion to accept the resignation of Wahleed Aslam and Anjum Chauhan

CARRIED

7.2 Election of Chair

(D. Honig/ L. Gombakomba) Motion to Nominate R. Safi as Chair of the Immigration and Refugee Committee

CARRIED

- Nomination Accepted by R. Safi

7.3 Election of Vice-Chair

(A. Alshaikhahmed/ D. Honig) Motion to Nominate Leslyn Gombakomba as Vice Chair of the Immigration and Refugee Committee

CARRIED

- Nomination accepted by L. Gombakomba

7.4 Election of Recording Secretary

(R. Safi/ A. Alshaikhahmed) – Motion to table the election of a Recording Secretary until such time as new members are recruited to the Immigration and Refugee Committee

CARRIED

7.5 Committee Recruitment and Selection

- Discussion on the need for the Committee to recruit more members due to the resignation of the above mentioned members and the passing of the chair
- P. DiClemente to inquire with Clerks about process

(R. Safi/ L. Gombakomba) – Motion that the Immigration and Refugee Committee formally request that the Legislative Clerks Office recruit at least 4 additional members to the Immigration and Refugee Committee

CARRIED

7.6 Public Delegation Process

N/A

7.7 Update to Volunteer Handbook

- Discussion regarding changes to the Volunteer Handbook regarding the change to potential removal from the committee after 3 unexcused absences in a term
- Discussion about whether this is appropriate.
- P.DiClemente explained this is the new direction from the Clerks department but that the new rules allow for the chair to excuse an absence if for example there are extenuating circumstances

8. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

D. Honig – D. Honig is on the research subcommittee of HIPC. The mandate of that subcommittee is to raise research questions regarding immigration issues that may be beneficial to do research on. They are asking for submissions of questions.

D. Honig asked the committee members if they have a question that they believe would be helpful to bring it to this committee and D. Honig will bring it to the HIPC research subcommittee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2020
City Hall Rm 192