Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Monday, November 8, 2021
5:30pm Zoom Meeting

Commissioners Present:  Julie Ressalam; Linda Skelley; Jakie Zvejniecks; Kevin Vargas; Salvador Cazun; Lizzy Beachland
Commissioners Excused:  Karen Colato
Commissioners Absent:  Samuel Gebremichael; Sabe Kemer; Mark Wideman
Other present:  Maria Adams
Staff Present:  Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

1) Meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Chair Kevin Vargas

2) OIIA Update:
   - Ms Song shared Hanbok Day Celebration partnered by OIIA, PUAC, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco. Aurora became the 3rd city in the states proclaim Oct 21 as Hanbok Day to recognize the contribution of local Korean community.
   - OIIA partnered with Bonfire co for Fletcher Plaza Fall Festival
   - 2021 NAE released the NAE Cities Index and Aurora has been recognized top cities in Colorado
   - Pupusa Festival: Sunday, November 14, 4-6pm
   - As one of the following initiative, OIIA will be hosting Mini-Coffee Expo in partnership with Centro American Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Dec. 9 @ Community Gallery, AHM.
   - Renaming Park project: Vice-Chair Ressalam asked how AIRC could assist during the process and Mr. Gambetta will keep AIRC posted during the internal process.

3) Connect 4 Health Colorado: Maria Adams with Connect 4 Health Colorado shared open enrollment information.

4) Meeting dates for 2022: Commissioner Beachland made a motion to have AIRC Meetings on 1st Tuesdays and Vice-Chair Ressalam seconded. Chair Vargas proposed to have AIRC meetings on 2nd Tuesdays of the month and AIRC agreed unanimously.

5) AIRC Holiday Gathering will be at Vice-chair Ressalam’s house on Friday, December 10.

6) Chair Vargas adjoined the meeting at 6:21pm.

Kevin Vargas

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Vargas, Kevin                Resaalam, Julie
Chair                        Vice-Chair