



City of Bellingham
Immigration Advisory Board Meeting
June 23, 2020, 6:00 PM

ATTACHMENT #1
IAB July 23, 2020

Note: **[Time stamps]** indicate the time in which each section/discussion can be listened to in the [meeting audio](#).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 6:00 PM.

Welcome

Mayor Seth Fleetwood provided a brief introduction and thanked the members of the Board. Council Member Hannah Stone provided a brief introduction and welcomed the Board. **[5:14]**

Board Member Introductions [10:20]

Board members introduced themselves by sharing why they joined the board, how they are connected to the community, and what they hope to get out of participating.

Present:

Ada Rumford
Rick Qualls
Liz Darrow
Bridget Reeves
Katie Winkelman
Danielle Siedlecki
Rev. Seth Thomas
Maria Isabel Cortes-Zamora
Ramon Barba Torres
Jahn Zuniga Escobar

Absent:

Monika Cassidy

The City will reimburse language interpreters who assist Board members.

Review/Approval of Agenda [24:26]

The Board discussed the contents of the agenda and the process by which it was created. The agenda was prepared and written by City staff to ensure the logistics of the Board were accomplished during the first meeting. Going forward, the Board will develop their own agenda setting process and seek all Board members' feedback on the agenda.

The Welcoming a Refugee Resolution agenda item was discussed [25:58]. Clarification was made that this request was brought forward to the City Council and the Council wanted the Immigration Advisory Board to review the Resolution and provide input in advance of any Council consideration. The Board is not required to move forward with this resolution.

The organizational structure of the Board was discussed [27:56]. It is up to the Board to decide how they would like to go about their business, elect/designate different kinds of officers, develop the way in which meetings are conducted, develop the framework used to create agendas, etc. The Board will have City staff support regardless of the organizational choices made. Councilmember Stone is willing to hold the space of chairperson until the Board develops its organizational structure.

The Board will develop its structure at a later date. Some key points from this discussion were:

- Encouragement for the board to be critical of systems that are traditionally oppressive such as Robert's Rules of Order
- Developing a structure that gives each member the opportunity to participate, being mindful of how the group decides what items can/will be on the agenda, making sure everyone's voices are heard, etc.
- The struggles faced by organized groups in the time of Zoom
- The importance of the moderator/leadership role to guide meetings
- The Board decided to bring suggestions regarding the organizational structure to the next meeting

Board Set-Up

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Tabled to a future meeting.

2. Length of Member Terms in light of start-up delay [1:03:46]

1 year terms expire 1 year from June 23, 2020.

2 year terms expires 2 years from June 23, 2020.

3. Meeting Schedule [48:15]

The Board discussed their meeting schedule. It was originally scheduled as the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00–8:00 PM, but the Board can change their standing meeting date and time. A poll will be developed to find a day and time that works for each Board member.

4. Review of Ordinance 2019-11-033 [55:55]

Councilmember Hannah Stone explained the purpose of the ordinance, the formation of the Immigration Advisory Board, and the freedom of the Board to develop their own work plan.

5. Other Housekeeping Items [1:02:59]

Communications Director Janice Keller spoke about the option for the Board to include a public comment period and the opportunity to bring in outside speakers and encouraged the board to decide this in their organizational structure discussion at the next meeting.

The Board was encouraged to look at the ways all City offices interact with ICE and to keep the Board within the narrow focus of farm worker and immigrant communities, such as the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 to these communities.

Concern was raised about Police Chief David Doll being present in the Zoom meeting and he was asked to become an attendee rather than a panelist. This change was proposed to ensure that Board members and members of the community feel safe expressing their thoughts and concerns during the Board meetings. City staff involvement in the Board's meetings was discussed further. The Board members requested that Council member Stone act as the City Council liaison with the Board. Council member Stone will confirm that Council member Hammill does not have any objection since he currently serves as the Chair of the Public Health, Safety and Justice Committee.

Email exchanges and documents created as part of the business of this Board are public documents and will be subject to disclosure if a request is made.

Board Review and Discussion [1:34:18]

1. Federal Contacts Report

Deputy Administrator Brian Heinrich presented the Federal Contacts Report for November 4, 2019 to June 20, 2020. The Board asked questions and had a discussion regarding the report and expectations for future reports.

2. Resolution – Welcoming Refugees

This item was not discussed further during this meeting.

Old/New Business [1:50:06]

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and speak freely.

The City will work on translation and interpretation services, develop a poll for deciding the next meeting date, and gather recommendations for the agenda. The Board will discuss meeting logistics and organizational structure at their next meeting.

Adjourn

The Immigration Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.