



City of Bellingham
Immigration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 18th, 2023, 6:30 PM

Board Members

Board members present: Monika Cassidy, Liz Darrow, Homero Israel Jose Garrido, Von Ochoa, Sophia Rey, Ada Rumford, Australia Tobon, Tara Villalba, Alfredo (Lelo) Juarez Zeferino

Board members excused: Holly Pai

Board members absent: Christian Sanchez Alvarez

Staff and Others Present:

City Communications Director: Janice Keller

City Council Legislative Staff: Jackie Lassiter

Russian, Spanish, and Punjabi Interpreters

City Council Liaison Kristina Michele Martens was not present

Times in brackets [] indicate the start time on the recording for each section. See <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials> to view the recording.

To submit an application to serve on a City Board or Commission, please visit the following webpage: <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-Process>

Liz Darrow called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Language Justice Process [00:00:05] Sophia Rey and Liz Darrow instructed members and attendees on how to access the provided interpreters. Interpreters introduced themselves.

Roll Call [00:01:30]

Review and Approval of March Meeting Minutes [00:02:32] *Liz Darrow moved to approve the March minutes. Sophia Rey seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.*

Announcements [00:03:55]

- **Marcha Campesina:** Lelo Juarez Zeferino informed the group of an upcoming march to support farm workers. The event will be held on April 30th beginning at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon at 9:00 AM.

Public Comment/Community Report [00:09:05] There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Reports

Immigrant Resource Center Subcommittee [00:10:00]: Sophia Rey read aloud a letter that the committee put together in response to the City's edits to the IAB's proposed changes to the



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Request for Proposals (RFP). The letter expressed resistance to several of the changes Brian Henrich, City of Bellingham Deputy Administrator, made to the IAB's version of the RFP. Members discussed the letter, potential changes to it, and potential responses from the City.

Australia Tobon moved to approve the letter as it was presented by Rey. Monika Cassidy seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition.

Janice Keller, City of Bellingham Communications Director, discussed next steps with members. If the City agrees to what is laid out in the letter, members agreed that the RFP can move forward. If there is more discussion needed, the subcommittee should meet with Brian Heinrich and/or other city administrators and Heinrich should be invited to the next meeting.

New subcommittee proposal [00:45:12]: This item was not discussed.

Process Subcommittee [00:45:47]: Ada Rumford announced that this will be her last meeting as an IAB member and that she will not be seeking another term.

Villalba moved to recommend Liz Darrow be reappointed for a second term. Rey seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Darrow announced that a facilitator had been selected for the upcoming Board Retreat. The facilitator, Victor Rodriguez, introduced himself and gave an overview of his work. Members discussed the retreat, location, format, interpretation, and other details.

Communications Subcommittee [01:09:41]: Rumford briefed the group on a recent event held at Western Washington University. They tabled at the event and gave information on the Board and membership.

Darrow moved to appoint Von Ochoa to the Communications subcommittee. Rumford seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

Rey suggested that they come up with a flyer, business card, or handout for outreach purposes. Members discussed this idea, the flyer the Communications Subcommittee has already been working on, and outreach more broadly.

Old and New Business [01:29:36]: Tara Villalba reported that the City Council had recently passed an ordinance criminalizing public drug use. Members discussed what this could mean for the immigrant community, communication between the City and affected communities, Board involvement in policy, data on race in the Whatcom County Jail, and the ability of the immigrant community to offer input and comment on public policy.



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Ochoa reported that he had been in communication with kiva.com and found out that a social security number was not required to apply through a loan from them. He also gave a report on several state level bills and initiatives.

Adjourn 8:35 PM