

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the MIAAC

8/13/2021 held via zoom and recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by Dr. Kalala

Present were Commissioners Huajing Maske co-chair of the Outreach Committee, Marilyn Daniel and Charles Baesler co-chairs of the Immigration Committee and Innocent Akwa of the Emergencies and Public Health Committee.

Not present were Commissioners Diana Queen, Co-Chair, and David Carpenter of the International Business and Workforce Development Committee

Guests present: Angene Wilson, Deborah Alexander, Buddha Adhikari

### 1. Committee Reports

Immigration Issues, C. Marilyn Daniel provided a written report and C. Dr. Maske uploaded it to the meeting chat box.

C Daniel proceeded to report on the meeting held on August 6<sup>th</sup> to further define the **Ambassador Program**. Highlights of a recommended starting point to recruit Ambassadors from Africa included the DRC, Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. Angene Wilson recommended adding West Africa, Nigeria, Senegal and others as they too have communities in Lexington. C Daniel asked how large the communities were, and contact information for community leaders and advocates for any that Ms Wilson might recommend and bring to the Commission's attention. She also asked whether the purpose of the Ambassador program was to assess the needs of the international communities and recommended that the MIAAC include responsibility to report accomplishments and what those communities contribute to Lexington as well. A brief review of the goals and purpose of the program followed by I Taylor. C Daniel then mentioned other areas that need representation are identified as Asia including China, Japan, Korea Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepali/Bhutan communities and India. In the Hispanic language group (Americas,) they identified Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, and the Dominican Republic. I Taylor reminded Commissioners that the Americas is not necessarily Hispanic, and we have many indigenous languages, particularly Mayan from Guatemala and Mexico needing the networking and two-way communication. C Daniel finished by stating a goal is gender equity as women sometimes have different needs or issues to overcome. She further stated that Ambassadors will communicate through their Region Commissioners. She indicated she would provide a written summary of the Ambassador Program meeting.

**International Business, Economic and Workforce Development (Inactive)** C Baesler spoke about the small business assistance is a good idea and to reenergize this

committee with UK Business College interns. I Taylor gave a brief background report on prior Gatton College and Small Business Admin representation on that committee and reported that the Commission has two new members who are in the international business field who may want to reactivate that committee. Examples of current need according to I Taylor are the ARPA funds and the small business relief funds that the international community is not accessing at Commerce Lexington.

**International Community Emergencies and Public Health** C Akwa explained that there had been confusion about minutes and reports, and a cancelled August meeting. C Akwa is seeking a co-chair.

**Outreach Committee**, Dr. Maske reviewed her committee's recommendations on the Ambassador Program. She said committee discussions included the kick-off timing for the Ambassador Program could be at an International Festival. She said a flyer design was in the works and that the committee also talked about including cultural trainings and workshops on different cultures. They could also add presentations and activities such as Tai Chi to make them more fun.

**Reappointments and Co-Chair Election** Dr. Kalala said Commissioner and Co-Chair Diana Queen is unable to continue as Co-Chair on the Commission and requested Commissioners consider the Co-Chair position to be voted on at the August 20<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting.

I Taylor asked if Melissa was available to comment on the videos for Training for New Commissioners. Ms McCartt-Smyth relayed that Boards & Commissions is contracting with the League of Cities to provide general training videos to LFUCG which will be available in October and offered them to the MIAAC to supplement any other trainings they may be considering.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m., C Daniel moved and C. Baesler 2nded.