

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the MIAAC**

**11/12/21 held via zoom.**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Dr. Kalala

**Present:** Dr. Nkongolo Kalala, Kacy Allen Bryant, Commissioner of Social Services, Adrian Wallace, Marilyn Daniels, Kaizar Mahuwala, Innocent Akwa, Deborah Alexander, Karen Slaymaker, Charles Baesler, Isabel Taylor, Trina Brown.

**Not present were:** David Carpenter

**Guests:** Maria Church,

### **Committee Chair Reports**

**Immigration Committee:** Marilyn Daniel reported that the Immigration Committee met on November 1, 2021. Many current changes in immigration laws are in the report and a few need addressing. Afghanistan resettlement; KRM reported 23 Afghanistan resettlements in Lexington to date and anticipates will receive 125 this year. Sponsors needed for tangible support. Some are coming with work permits and others eligible to apply. Tragic stories, including a young woman separated at the airport from her five children and husband when a bomb exploded. She was rushed onto an airplane and has still not found her family. Does not know if her husband and children are alive.

Biden Administration issued enforcement guidelines re ICE putting limitations so no enforcement in schools, community centers, places of worship, funerals or rallies. ICE enforcement in courthouses was not addressed and of concern.

Foreign nationals can enter the US with proof of vaccination.

Supreme Court's lifting of eviction moratorium will cause many issues for the immigrant communities and lack of data on impact on immigrants. Isabel Taylor suggested reaching out to Community Action Council as they are now handling all state and city Housing Stabilization funding for rental and other assistance. They have language assistance and bilingual personnel.

The Immigration chair reached out to Deborah Alexander to join that committee and Dr. Alexander gave a positive response to join.

**Outreach Committee:** Adrian Wallace spoke about the Ambassador plan and would like set-up an ambassador sub-committee of the Outreach Committee given that the Ordinance does not permit programming, and launch asap. Recruitment of representatives from diverse nationalities in Lexington would be ideal and Mayor would appoint officially. Isabel Taylor will reach out to Mayor's office about adding the Ambassador plan to the full Commissions. Adrian Wallace made motion that the Executive Committee add creation of this subcommittee to the full Commission's agenda, Marilyn Daniels 2nded. Adrian Wallace will send the Ambassador

Program presentation to all Committee members. Isabel Taylor suggested the Ambassador Program to have its own chair; Marilyn Daniels 2nded and motion approved.

**International Community Emergencies and Public Health:** Innocent Akwa had no report but stated that the MIAAC disbanded this Committee due to inactive membership. He expressed his interest to continue serving if the committee was reconstituted. Isabel Taylor mentioned that Dr. Touchan and Maria Church are active members and perhaps Dr. Touchan would consider chairing. Marilyn Daniels asked if reconstituted was there any volunteers to serve and moved to put it to the full Commission's agenda, Deborah Alexander 2nded.

**Committees Assignment of new Commissioners to committee recommendations:** Kaizar Mahuwala may be interested in sitting and/chairing the International Business and Workforce Development Committee. David Carpenter wants an increase in the scope of MIAAC involvement in workforce development. A motion to reconstitute the International Business and Workforce Development committee was made by K. Mahuwala and the motion 2nded by Marilyn Daniel. Isabel Taylor mentioned Fabrizio Tirelli may have an interest in it as well. Adrian Wallace suggested a map of immigrant small businesses. Deborah Alexander joined the immigration committee. Rosa Martin has expressed interest in the Outreach committee. Isabel mentioned that Dr. Wang has placed his application, further to Dr. Maske's recommendation and would probably be excellent in the Outreach committee or ambassadors sub-committee as he has worked with Isabel and Global Lex all during the pandemic. Dr. Kalala made motion to add new members in committees to full Commission agenda, M. Daniels 2nded Kaizar Mahuwala asked that all committees should work toward filling the gap. Marilyn Daniels suggested establishing a relationship with Keeneland and other large businesses to support local international markets. Businesses use immigrant labor and should support their small businesses, such as ordering food from small markets and stores. May need to solicit help from The Chamber of Commerce and Greater Lexington. Isabel Taylor mentioned that an original goal of the International Business committee was to educate the public and bring awareness of immigrant contributions to Lexington in terms of taxes, job creation, cultural diversity in the arts, food, etc as well as research and economic development.

**Co-Chair – Recommendations:** Dr. Kalala asked if anyone would be interested in serving as co-chair of the MIAAC given Diana Queen's departure. Adrian Wallace interested, Kaizar Mahuwala may be interested after learning more re role and responsibilities. They agreed to hold separate conversations on the matter with Dr. Kalala.

Dr. Kalala also said that Diana Queen offered to assist with training of new members despite stepping off the Commission.

### **New Business/Old Business**

Adrian Wallace attended the Divercity festival preview; suggested the priority of recruitment and public announcement.

Quarterly meeting schedules for 2022 will be added to agenda

Kaizar Mahuwala suggested organizing one event or platform to hear from international community leaders/city officials to create strong bonds. Deborah Alexander suggested separate gatherings due to possibility of massive comments. Dr. Kalala believes that would be a task for the Ambassador sub-committee and recommended regional gatherings to promote familiarity with one another. Deborah Alexander concerned that regional meetings would cause feelings of segregation. Marilyn Daniel is not in favor of regional meetings due to the complexity of history tensions and animosities. Dr. Kalala suggested that sub-committee take the lead to control presentations.

Isabel Taylor reported that ARPA has been time consuming to Council Members. Suggested that the Commission needs to educate themselves due to the importance of funding that will benefit the entire community. Will send packet out to International Business, Economic and Workforce Development Committee.

Isabel Taylor introduced Trina Brown, new secretary for the MIAAC; as well as improvements moving forward.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.; Marilyn Daniel moved and Deborah Alexander 2nded.