



CITY OF

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

**CHLOE EUDALY, COMMISSIONER**

Suk Rhee, Bureau Director  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110  
Portland, Oregon 97204

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*Promoting a culture of civic engagement*

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**New Portlanders Policy Commission (NPPC) Meeting Minutes**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

City of Portland Rose Room  
1221 SW 4th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Commission Co-Chairs: Maria Garcia, Sho Dozono, and Dr. Baher Butti

Commission Secretary: Raju Subedi

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Rick Birkel  
Dr. Baher Butti  
Victoria Cross  
Jamal Dar  
Djimet Dogo  
Yonas Kassie  
Anne Downing  
Sho Dozono  
Kolini Fusitu'a  
Ping Khaw  
SB Langh  
Octaviano Merencias-Cuevas  
Natalya Sobolevskaya  
Wajdi Said  
June Schumann  
Evelyn Liu  
Sanja Muranovic

**EXCUSED:**

Maria Garcia  
Rania Ayoub  
Lee Po Cha  
Rev. Joe Enlet  
Musse Olof  
Re. Raju Subedi  
Abdikadir Bashir  
Sara Jayanthi Raman

**ABSENT:**

**Quorum met**

**Also present:**

Suk Rhee, ONI Bureau Director  
Dianne Riley, CNIC Program Coordinator  
Linda Castillo, New Portlanders Program Coordinator  
Mical Yohannes, Community Service Aide  
Winta Yohannes, Associate Policy Advisor, Office of Commissioner Eudaly

**Call to order, roll call, review and approval of minutes and agenda**

Co-chair Sho Dozono called the meeting to order at 5:52 PM.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Said moved to modify the minutes from the May 22, 2018 meeting by changing the name of the subcommittee from the Equity, Engagement and Enterprise Committee to the Equity, Engagement and Entrepreneurship Committee. Commissioner Merencias-Cuevas moved to second the motion.

- In support: Dr. Rick Birkel, Dr. Baher Butti, Victoria Cross, Jamal Dar, Djimet Dogo, Yonas Kassie, Sho Dozono, Kolini Fusitu'a, Ping Khaw, SB Langh, Octaviano Merencias-Cuevas, Natalya Sobolevskaya, Wajdi Said, June Schumann, Evelyn Liu, Sanja Muranovic, Anne Downing
- Abstentions: None
- Opposition: None

The modification was approved.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Merencias-Cuevas moved to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2018. Commissioner Said moved to seconded motion.

- In support: Dr. Rick Birkel, Dr. Baher Butti, Victoria Cross, Jamal Dar, Djimet Dogo, Yonas Kassie, Sho Dozono, Kolini Fusitu'a, Ping Khaw, SB Langh, Octaviano Merencias-Cuevas, Natalya Sobolevskaya, Wajdi Said, June Schumann, Evelyn Liu, Sanja Muranovic, Anne Downing
- Abstentions: None
- Opposition: None

The minutes were approved.

### **Grounding**

Co-chair Dozono asked for a volunteer to share a few words. Commissioner Said introduced his guest, a 19 year international student from Egypt and the group welcomed his guest.

### **Community comments or public testimony**

#### **Newcomer Scholarship Fund Guests: Mike Francis, Peter Za, and Perla Alvarez**

Linda Castillo introduced Mike Francis who started the New Comer Scholarship Fund in collaboration with the MRG Foundation. Francis presented medals and certificates to the two winners from this year: Peter Za and Violeta Alvarez, whose sister Perla Alvarez was to accept on her behalf. Linda passed around note cards to commissioners to distribute in the community to people that they know to apply for this scholarship.

### **Committee updates**

#### **Report back from Meeting with Housing Bureau Director**

Commissioner Fusitu'a gave an update on behalf of the Equity, Engagement and Entrepreneurship Committee. Main highlights from the meeting:

- One of the main focuses was talking to the Housing Bureau about moving from approving building housing with one bedrooms to having three or four bedrooms to fit larger families.
- Spent most of their meeting talking about the housing bond and clarifying that money isn't going to Community Development Commissions, such as IRCO. That money is not available for community organizations, just for the city.
- The Housing Bureau's main goal is to get funding to build but they don't do implementation. Using this info, this committee can adjust about their strategy about how to keep moving forward.

- Commissioner Liu made follow up contact and spoke to a community engagement staff member at the Housing Bureau. While they didn't give any specific commitments, they are willing to talk to commissioners and work with the group either as a group or individually.
- The Housing Bureau has partnerships with IRCO and other groups. This committee wants staff to help do research so they are not duplicating efforts.
- This committee is hoping to meet with Police Bureau next.

## Updates

Commissioner Schumann reported on Education and Advocacy Committee meeting. The group talked about the crisis on the southern border and the Supreme Court decision on the Muslim ban.

Commissioner Dar asked the group the following questions: 1) Is this NPPC going to make statement 2) Is this team going to talk to press, such as newspapers?

Winta Yohannes informed the group that City Council will be making time for two people from the NPPC to give testimony on these issues on the following day. The group decided to discuss this further at the end of the meeting.

## Preparation for discussion & review of NPPC ground rules

Dianne Riley passed around the schedule of upcoming meetings and the code of conduct. Co-chair Butti asked the best ways to intervene when the code of conduct isn't being followed, and the group suggested reminding each other about using the three cards to be recognized to speak, allowing the co-chairs to remind people about the code of conduct, and supporting the co-chairs when they intervene. Butti suggested adding the 3 card system to the code of conduct.

## Review NPPC Work Plan and Bylaws creation process

Dianne reminded the group that the bylaw creation will be coming through a city wide process. Commissioners can expect bylaw template later this summer.

Commissioner Said suggested having working groups to work on the following upcoming projects: 1) small group working on the bylaws 2) creating an office for refugees and immigrants in the city of Portland.

Dianne reminded the group that the bylaws template might just need minor edits, so the group decided to wait to see how they want to handle creating the bylaws until they see the template. As for creating an office, Winta noted that Commissioner Eudaly's office is interested in engaging in this conversation, and would offer her time to discuss this idea before a proposal is created. Their office would need more information about what already exists, the objectives of creating this new office, and whether this office is the best way to meet these objectives. Winta suggested meeting with her and Suk to have these conversations. Other commissioners were unclear about how this office might differ from the NPPC, previous efforts to create this office, and how this might be different from the other ways that immigrants are already represented in the city.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Merencias-Cuevas moved to have the 1) co-chairs lead the effort to create a group that will have discussions and gather more information about creating an office of refugee and immigrant affairs in the City of Portland 2) have the co-chairs assign or appoint 2 or 3 commissioner, have this group meet with Winta and other city staff to discuss this further, and then present to the commission . Commissioner Butti seconded the motion.

- In support: Dr. Rick Birkel, Dr. Baher Butti, Victoria Cross, Jamal Dar, Djimet Dogo, Yonas Kassie, Sho Dozono, Kolini Fusitu'a, Ping Khaw, SB Langh, Octaviano Mercias-Cuevas, Wajdi Said, June Schumann, Evelyn Liu, Sanja Muranovic
- Abstentions: None
- Opposition: Anne Downing, Natalya Sobolevskaya

Reasons for opposition: 1) Commissioner Downing doesn't want to divide the commission by having a small group work on this because people without experience will get left behind and is nervous that this process will move too fast. 2) Commissioner Sobolevskaya would like the whole commission to meet with Winta first and then develop next steps of what to do. She is worried that three people will not represent the whole committee.

The motion is passed.

Sho invited anyone that is interested to join the subcommittee and the following commissioners volunteered: Commissioner Dar, Commissioner Said, Commissioner Birkel, Commissioner Mercias-Cuevas, Commissioner Sobolevskaya, and Commissioner Cross.

### **Status Report on Universal Defense Fund and Oversight**

No new updates.

### **Discussion: What might the NPPC do to address current crisis for communities?**

Winta let the group know that Occupy ICE made the request to have time to talk about these issues during the next City Council session on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2018. Commissioner Eudaly invited the NPPC to also provide testimony.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Dozono made the motion for this group making a statement at City Council about the crisis at the border and the Muslim ban. Commissioner Mercias-Cuevas seconded.

- In support: Dr. Rick Birkel, Dr. Baher Butti, Victoria Cross, Jamal Dar, Djimet Dogo, Yonas Kassie, Sho Dozono, Kolini Fusitu'a, Ping Khaw, SB Langh, Octaviano Mercias-Cuevas, Natalya Sobolevskaya, Wajdi Said, June Schumann, Evelyn Liu, Sanja Muranovic, Anne Downing
- Abstentions: None
- Oppose: None

This motion is passed. Commissioner Dar and Commissioner Schumann volunteered to give testimony on behalf of the NPPC.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair Sho Dozono at 7:32 PM.