

**Cultural Connections Committee
Meeting Minutes
St. Joseph Hospital
Nashua, NH 03060**

**January 25, 2023
12:06 – 1:05 PM**

1. Call to Order

Margaret Loret, CCC Chair

The meeting was called to order by Margaret Loret at 12:06 PM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Committee was welcomed by Diana, a member of the staff of the Interpreter Services Office at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua.

2. Roll Call

Elizabeth Berry, Vice Chair

Members present: Elizabeth Berry, Shanta Bist, Claudia Decker, Nonny Egbuonu, Samba Halkose, Adelina Hernandez, Jenn Hosking, Wei Lin, Margaret Loret, Donna Marceau, Deepa Mangalat, Robert Ortiz, and Gloria Timmons.

Guests: Sam Cassista, Angela Mercado, Iraida Muñoz, Brenda Perrier, Silvia Petuck, Chandra Reber, Colin Rugg, and Meta Vornehm.

3. Approval of the August 24th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the October CCC meeting were approved by acclamation.

4. Matched Savings & Financial Literacy for Immigrants

**Colin Rugg, Manager
Financial Literacy Program,
IINE**

Colin Rugg reported on a new initiative of IINE called Financial Literacy Training Program offered to refugees and other eligible immigrants. The program also provides financial assistance for families and individuals who are saving for a car, a house, an education, or a small business launch. Eligibility criteria can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/ktCWVPxfsM> or by calling Colin Rugg at crugg@iine.org.

5. Granite State Organizing Project: Mission and Activities

**Angela Mercado, Chair
Nashua Chapter, GSOP**

Angela Mercado gave an overview of actions undertaken by the Nashua Chapter of GSOP and the organization in general including advocacy efforts on behalf of Latino community for affordable housing,

offering ESL and computer classes at the Latino Center in Nashua, among other worthy causes the Chapter is involved in.

The focus of Ms. Mercado's presentation was a recent attempt of developers to build an asphalt plant in Nashua in the heart of the City where, in spite of being coded as a business zone, many single and multi-family properties are located. She solicited the Committee's support by inviting members to disseminate the information about the upcoming public hearing to be held by the Nashua Planning Board at the City Hall Auditorium on February 16, 6:30pm. The voice of the community in opposition of the project will be critical in blocking the decision of the Planning Board to issue a permit to begin construction of the Asphalt plant.

6. Departmental Updates

Alderwoman Gloria Timmons echoed comments of Angela Mercado regarding the asphalt plant project and the Mayor's opposition to the idea of an environmentally harmful business in the residential area.

She also reported that the CCC might consider approaching different non-profit organizations operating in Nashua that benefit financially from the City's generosity in the form of community grants.

Robert Ortiz, who coordinates the Fatherhood Group, reminded that meetings are held every Tuesday at the Arlington Community Center from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Jen Hosking announced that the library cancelled penalty fees for overdue books.

7. Other Business

Wei Lin, President of the Chinese Cultural Society of Greater Nashua, invited members and the public to the Chinese New Year (the Year of the Rabbit) celebrations at the YMCA in Nashua on February 4, 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

Brenda Perrier of the Nashua Senior Activity Center announced that free tax assistance for senior will be held at the Senior Center every Wednesday by appointments only effective immediately. Call 211 to schedule an appointment.

Deepa Mangalat reported on the MLK Day's event she attended in Nashua together with her fellow members of the Indian Pacific Group of the AAPI. The event was held on January 24th was celebrated with groceries donations made to Ascentria.

Donna Marceau mentioned that the next meeting of the Regional Coordination Council for Community transportation will be on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 10 at NRPC.

Adelina Reyes Hernandez announced that she accepted a new position as Welfare Specialist with the Nashua Welfare Department.

8. Election of 2023 CCC Officers

Margaret Loret nominated **Donna Marceau** for the position of Chair of the Cultural Committee effective immediately. Prof. Berry seconded. The nomination was approved by acclamation.

9. Next meeting: City Hall – 3rd Floor Auditorium

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.