

Cultural Connections Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2023
12:04pm – 12:59 pm

1. Call to Order

Elizabeth Berry
Vice-Chair, CCC

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Berry at 12:04 PM.

2. Roll Call and Welcome

Elizabeth Berry

Members present: Brenda Perrier, Sandra Pratt, Jenn Hosking, Mark Hastbacka, Sonia prince, Bruno DBrito, Leandro Garcia, Wei Lin, Lynn Boyer, Meta Vornehem, Adelina Reyes Hernandez, Samba Halkose, Elizabeth Berry, Jennice Chewlin, Jessica Hagg, Robert Ortiz

Members Present on Zoom: Margaret Loret, Jeni Aldean, Nonny Egbuonu, Claudia Decker, Shanta Bist

Margo Bell welcomed participants to the Nashua Senior Center and informed committee that the center is open to creating more partnerships in hopes of creating new events. Elizabeth Berry informed committee that Donna Marceau is unavailable this day.

3. Approval of the April 26th Meeting Minutes @ 12:14pm

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

4. Departmental Updates

Jenn Hosking, Nashua Public Library

- Informed committee that the Summer Reading Kick-off begins June 1st. Community Reading Goal set to 800,000 reading minutes. \$500 incentives divided up amongst top readers.
- June 22nd, 2023 from 6-8pm Summer Reading Kick-off Party "All Together Now" summer reading program. The event features DJ Flow Free or Die and a breakdance battle from 6-7 pm and The Flying Gravity Circus from 7-8 pm. We'll also have lawn games, a community art mural, and the food truck Soel Sistas.

Lynn Boyer, YMCA

- Summer Bucket List Begins on June 13th, 2023
- Requested Partnerships

Brenda Perrier, Nashua Senior Center

- Ageing @ Home Seminar on July 27th and August 3rd at the Nashua Senior Center

Sonia Prince, Financial Educator

- Offered free financial workshops and trainings for individuals or agencies

Jennice Chewlin, Chewlin Group

- Offered free event: Reimagining Self Care: Community conversation exploring what can we do to better care for ourselves (In Spanish) – On June 2nd, 2023 @ 6pm

Jessica Hagg, Arlington St Community Center

- Informed committee of available events at ASCC. Please look at ASCCnashua.com for calendar and updates:
 - Free Dance Classes(including Salsa, Merengue) for kids and adults, Free Yoga Classes, Nashua Strong Families meetings, Eviction Prevention Workshop coming up.

Bruno DBrito, Brazilian Council

- Informed committee that some of the immigrant bills that could assist immigration are not seeming to be passed and some that could harm immigrant populations legally are passing.
- Immigration law passing to be enforced within 25 miles near Canadian border
- Currently working on developing and improving accessibility for non English speakers via judicial branch and DMV's. More signs in Spanish and other languages.
- Working on a reference guide for immigrants that speak Portuguese that will have basic information of local and state resources.
- Reports that there are 17 languages across all DMV's in state that are represented and available. Reports DMV's also have language bank to assist individuals that speak languages other than English.

Samba – Shared a concern in regards to immigrants showing up to a hearing with ICE. Asked if it was more likely if an individual with a hearing with ICE will get deported. Bruno responded that Deportation/Detention is more likely if an individual is a no-show and could be considered a flight risk with grounds for detention.

Participants on Zoom had no comments at this time.

5. Multicultural Festival

Jenn Hosking

MultiCultural Festival Information on city website. Event takes place on Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 11am-2pm at the Nashua Public Library plaza and parking lot. 2 stages will be set up (1 large stage and 1 smaller stage). Performers have been scheduled. Local foods will be available on site. Will work out details with performers in regards to stage sizes.

Nonny suggested and requested for the time to be shifted to 12pm-3pm instead of 11am-2pm. States that participants of local churches are highly involved and the 11am start could hinder their ability to participate. Asked if Judges for the event have been identified.

Nonny's statement was duly noted by the committee.

6. Other Business

Robert Ortiz informed committee of Free Summer Fun event on June 25th located at the Boys and Girls club from 12pm to 5pm. Dominos tournament with chance to win prizes. Free food, music, and games for kids and families. June 15th Fatherhood Support group will have a Fathers Day celebration from 530pm to 7pm.

Nonny Egbuonu informed committee of upcoming Water Walk. Date: September 16th 9am-12pm. Location will be at the Greeley Park. Please visit city website for more information.

Samba Halkose of the Adult Education Center announced free summer ESL classes for immigrants.

Elizabeth Berry informed the CCC members about a ELL summer program focused on ELL, Communication and Language, Community sharing, and Networking. \$300 to attend. 9 consecutive Saturdays from 830am to 12pm.

Bruno DBrito requested more information about Latino Center on Spruce St.

- **Statements from Various Committee Members:**
 - **It is a call in service / walk-ins are always welcome**
 - **English communication services Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (English/Spanish)**
 - **Resources Refferals**
 - **No one is turned away**
 - **Located in the church**

7. Next meeting will be held on June 28th at 12pm (noon) and will be located at Nashua Community College

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.