

Immigrant Advancement Committee of CDICR Minutes for February 8

Present:

Committee members: Jessica Chicco, Joan Lancourt, Damon Graff, Tina Li, Shubha Dixit, Roberta Falke, Eric Hardt

Also present: Nina Rabkina (Brookline Public Library), Jay Sweitzer-Shalit (HS)

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from January 11, 2022 meeting approved.

Vote: JC-y, Bishnu – y, Roberta – y, Tina – y, Damon – y, Eric – y, Joan – y, Shubha - y

Updates

- possible idea of immigrant org roundtable bringing together various organizations focused on working with immigrants in Brookline (Welcome Blanket, Women Thriving, Library, IAC, BAAFN, others)
- Brookline Town Meeting Info Session for People of Color, co-sponsored by the Brookline Asian American Family Network and the Brookline Equity Coalition on February 12 at 12pm.
- Final Disparity Report: A copy of this report, a short presentation of the disparities and recommendations, and the data collected by the Working Group will remain available at <https://www.brooklinema.gov/1898/Disparity-Report>. The Disparity Report Working Group will also hold two virtual Disparity Report Community Forums in advance of review of the Town budget and warrant articles for the Spring Town Meeting in May 2022 to share the findings with the public, on February 16 and 24.

Conversation re: noncitizen municipal voting

Presentation by Jay Sweitzer-Shalit: Recent successful efforts in New York City to allow noncitizens to vote in local elections. This has been going on for a long time. Although Brookline does not allow noncitizens to vote in municipal elections, it tried in 2010 and passed a WA. Unfortunately, law requires the statehouse to approve a Home Rule petition. Once there is a new member on the Select Board all Home Rule petitions expire. Seems likely we would need a new WA to move this forward again in Brookline.

On same topic, see upcoming event sponsored at Boston College on noncitizen voting rights: <https://www.greaterbostondebateseries.com>

Finalizing resource document & strategy for distribution

Resource document has been finalized and is ready for posting and distribution. Reminder that this is a document we will continue to enhance, with additional resources and language access.

Possible Citizenship Clinic

MIRA organizes citizenship clinics to provide free citizenship application assistance to individuals throughout the state. Have reached out to Brookline Library and exploring

possibilities to partner on offering a clinic in Brookline. IAC could sponsor, volunteer, and do outreach.

Question from Eric re: obstacles to accessing METCO as a result of language access. Jessica will reach out to Malcolm Cawthorne to obtain more information on this.

Action steps:

To do: create gmail for Brookline IAC and add email to resource doc; distribute to 130+orgs,; follow up on possibility of citizenship clinic.

Next meeting on March 8 at 7:30pm