

Immigrant Advancement Committee of CDICR

Minutes for April 5, 2022

Present: Tina Li, Eric Hardt, Shubha Harihally Shankaranarayana, Damon Graff, Joan Lancourt, Bishnu Tamang, Roberta Falke

Approval of minutes: Damon: y, Jessica: y, Eric: y, Tina: y, Shubah: y, Roberta: y. Minutes approved

Updates

- Outreach to Ukrainians in Brookline: Roberta didn't hear back from RSM, one person in Newton organizing
- Report back on books available at our libraries: Tina found a [list](#) on diversity topic; also found a [document](#) showing demographics of ELL students. We will set time in agenda for next meeting to debrief the ELL stats
- Status of language access work: town in process of hiring consultant to draft job description; policy working group has started to meet. Eric expressed interest in participating. Opinion that person hired as language access coordinator should be the one to draft a town wide policy was shared by several. Eric also shared that Found in Translation is seeking a new executive director.
- Report back from pilot interviews
 - o Shubha: sent it to a couple of people, waiting to hear back
 - o Bishnu: some questions not applicable, no community events and activities happening in the community that white people are not exposed to immigrant communities. Makes immigrants feel isolated because not integrated. Japanese people – cherry blossom, pumpkin festival. Civic engagement – not aware of what is happening. Parents are learning just through school about the community, harder for those who don't have school aged kids. Not TV or print media. Mostly social media and flyers/public posting. Library, school, playground, playgroup.

Citizenship clinic

- Reviewed basic information. Had a conversation around needs for interpretation (most individuals will have English skills required for naturalization, those who are eligible for an exemption we will try to pair up with volunteers with those language skills).
- Roberta to pick up flyers to do outreach in Brookline

Brookline roundtable on immigrants

- Consensus that this was a good idea. Possible organizations include Welcome Blanket, faith groups (many congregations & parishes have immigrant justice committees), Women Thriving, Brookline Thrives, METCO, maybe local immigrant owned businesses. Jessica will follow up with committee members about specific outreach.

Conversation on committee goals

- Jessica to send out quick google form to gather everyone's top 3 ideas for goals.

Potential public hearing on WA on noncitizen voting

- Decided we would devote time in next meeting to a public hearing on WA29

Next meeting May 10, 2022 at 7:30pm.