

Minutes for IAC Meeting of Sept. 11, 2023

Present: Roberta, Tina, Eric, Jessica, Joan, Angela, Jacob

Voting for minutes: Approved

Tina: Yes, Roberta: Yes, Jessica: Yes, Eric: Yes, Joan: Abstain

Updates: Helping New Arrivals in MA

A state of emergency was declared in MA for the lack of housing for immigrants. State government is encouraging people/organizations to house people. Large percentage of immigrants in shelters are Haitian.

To gain more information, Jessica reached out to the town administrator. According to them, the town is very eager to help out, but is not clear of the immediate next steps. Roberta volunteered to reach out to see more of what we can do. Jessica will put this on the agenda of the commission meeting.

Committee agrees that our goal is to find out what town is doing to address this and volunteer to assist

Possible next steps:

1. Reach out to various immigrant groups to ask about their experiences and needs.
2. Help with the larger state effort to provide housing, food, etc
3. Put together a one-pager "what are actionable things you can do to help immigrants" to spread awareness in Brookline & distribute them to various town organizations (ex. churches/synagogue or through Brookline outreach list) - Jessica volunteered to finish this by this week

Welcome Booklet

Since the last meeting, Jessica included all the parts of the booklet together, did some formatting, and added a placeholder for introduction.

Committee tries to find the best place to put phone numbers: at the bottom together or individually after each section.

Feedback:

Former meeting suggested adding Parking, Recycling, and Brookline Center for Mental Health. Eric suggested adding more regarding elder abuse, domestic violence, etc.

Eric suggested adding more information regarding language access. Jessica suggested adding a title: something like "reminder that one is entitled to language access when interacting with town government". Town does have access to the language line. Immigrants can show this document when requesting an interpreter. There's no update on language access coordinator: not sure when, full/half-time job, etc.

Next step:

1. Jacob volunteers to work on parking and recycling and Brookline Teen Center.

2. Eric will edit the Council on Aging page and make changes to clarify the services offered.
3. Jessica will work on Domestic Violence, elder abuse, child abuse, etc.
4. Tina will work on Brookline Center for Mental Health
5. Joan will draft an introduction

Virtual Roundtable

The immigrant roundtable is set for October. A work day 5:30 - 7.

Current date: October 25/6th (Weds/Thurs), 5:30-7pm. (Roberta will find out which date works best)

Content of the meeting: Get feedback on the booklet, perhaps with breakout rooms; expecting around 20-30? Set an open-invitation meeting to encourage attendance?

Next step: Invitation sent out before next week - Roberta

Focus Group

Eric will organize the Senior center focus group.

Tina and Jessica organize the AAPI roundtable w/ BAAFN mailing list.

Bishnu will organize the Brookline Housing focus group.

Next step: set a date, create a poster, make a zoom w/ interpreter, & outreach to certain communities

Goal date: 2nd week of November?

Report to Commission

Jessica does community report to the Commission each meeting. As of now, the commission has changes in membership/leadership.

Next Meeting: October 10th, 7:30-8:30pm