

NEIGHBORHOODS & DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES • February 14, 2012 • CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 4

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10. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Sutton.

20. **Roll Call:**

Commission Chair Shirley Sutton	Council Liaison Mark Smith
Commission Vice Chair Glenda Powell-Freeman	Director Lynn Sordel
Commissioner Rosamaría Graziani (excused)	Staff Member Julie Moore

30. **Approval of Minutes:**

40. **Public Comments:** Maria Ambalada was in attendance as well as Council Member Benjamin Goodwin. Gloria Sepulveda and Angel Shimelish were attending as possible commissioners.

50. **New Business:**

50.1 **Welcome New Council Liaison:** The Commission welcomed our new liaison, Council Member Mark Smith. Council Liaison Smith reported that he was happy to be a part of the Commission once again. He was a founding member of this Commission before he was elected to the City Council. He shared with the Commission that he and his family chose to live in Lynnwood because of the diversity of the residents. Chair Sutton welcomed Council Liaison Smith and expressed great appreciation that he will be serving with us this year.

50.2 **2011 Commission Report to Council:** The Annual Report of Commission Activities for 2011 has been compiled and distributed to Commissioners for feedback. This report will be given to City Council on March 5 and an FYI Memo for their review. Chair Sutton requested that this also be posted to the City website.

50.3 **Future of the Commission:** Discussion on the possibility of changing the residency requirements for the Diversity Commission. Currently, the requirement is that a candidate must live within the Lynnwood city limits. This requirement is restricting the recruitment of qualified individuals. Currently the Commission has three members and is unable to conduct business due to a lack of a quorum. Current Commissioners agree that Lynnwood’s impact reaches farther than its current city boundaries and we should not turn away qualified individuals, who already think they are part of the community. Chair Sutton has already submitted a letter to Council President Loren Simmonds requesting that the residency requirements be reviewed. Council Liaison Mark Smith said that he could support this so long as we keep a majority of the positions to Lynnwood residents. The remaining three positions could be considered “at large”. He suggested that Chair Sutton draft a formal request to submit to City Council requesting this be discussed at a Council Work Session. Director Sordel reported that the Arts Commission, which only has two remaining Commissioners, is also supportive of the change of residency requirements. The Historical Commission and the Library Board also have had vacancies for an extended period. Staff should contact them to determine if they are interested in joining this discussion.

50.4 **Chair and Vice Chair Positions:** Chair Sutton will continue in the Chair role until more members are added and the Commission can establish a quorum.

50.5 **2012 Commission Activities:** Reviewed a list of possible Commission activities for 2012. The Commission will review this list again at the March meeting.

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2 60. **Old Business:** None

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4 70. **Staff Update:**

5 70.1 Director Sordel wanted to thank Shirley, Glenda and Rosamaría for their participation
6 in the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, it was a huge success.

7 70.2 Staff Member Julie Moore is preparing a Lynnwood Community Profile for City
8 Council to review. She will bring the presentation to the March Commission meeting for
9 Commissioners to review and provide input. The presentation will be sent electronically
10 before the meeting.

11 70.3 Director Sordel reported that the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts department has
12 recently submitted a grant proposal to Verdant Health Commission requesting a two year
13 commitment to help fund the Farmers Market. The Farmers Market will be located on 198th
14 St, just in front of the City's Permit Center. It is anticipated to open in June if funding is
15 approved.

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17 80. **Council Liaison Update:** Council Liaison Mark Smith reported that City Council recently
18 approved the sale of the bonds for the Recreation Center and we received a very good rate.
19 The City's credit rating has recently been upgraded which helped us get a better rating.
20 Council Liaison Smith noted that City Council will begin discussing the upcoming
21 2013/2014 budget and he suggested that the commission submit to Council their priorities
22 and advocate for issues that they believe are important.

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24 90. **Comments for the Good of the Order:**

25 90.1 Chair Sutton reported that the Commission is co-sponsoring the Female Entrepreneurs
26 Business Fair which will be on February 23, 2012 at Edmonds Community College.

27 90.2 Chair Sutton informed the Commission about an upcoming program called "6 Weeks
28 to a Better You". It is sponsored by Verdant Health Commission, and the City is also a co-
29 sponsor for this event. Staff Member Moore will send out information to the Commission
30 on the program.

31 90.3 Commission Vice Chair Powell-Freemen thanked Council Member Goodwin for
32 attending and stated she was excited to see a new person on Council and hoping he would
33 bring fresh ideas. She also stated she was excited to have Council Member Mark Smith as
34 our new Liaison.

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36 100. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.