

**NEIGHBORHOODS & DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES • August 11, 2015 • CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1 **10. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Rosamaría Graziani.

2

3 **20. Roll Call:**

4 Commission Chair Rosamaría Graziani	Commissioner Shirley Sutton
5 Commission Vice Chair Berel Paltiel	Commissioner Ty Tufono (absent)
6 Commissioner Glenda Powell-Freeman	Council Liaison Ian Cotton
7 Commissioner Pining Reyes	Executive Office Liaison Art Ceniza
8 Commissioner Angel Shimelish	Staff Liaison Tracy Sloan

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10 **30. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from June meeting and special meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> and July  
11 14<sup>th</sup> were tabled for approval at the September meeting.

12

13 **40. Public Comments** - Ted Hikel spoke to the Commission related to updates to municipal code  
14 recently approved by the Council regarding Boards and Commissions (Ord. 2.58.50). He  
15 supports the Commission sponsoring City wide events related to heritage. He feels that events  
16 are our way to reach the community.

17

18 **50. Council Liaison Update** - Council Liaison Cotton briefed on the council activities for the last  
19 month. He spoke about the updates to the code related to the Boards and Commissions that  
20 Mr. Hikel referenced. Last Tuesday was National Night Out and the council members visited 20  
21 neighborhoods. The council will be on break and reconvening on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

22

23 **60. Old Business:**

24 **60.1 Strategic Plan recap** – Staff Liaison Sloan briefed the Commission that Regina Alexander,  
25 who had been leading the Strategic Planning Sessions, was unable to attend due to a  
26 scheduling conflict. She asked Staff Liaison Sloan to relay her apologies and her message.  
27 Regina’s message started with a recap of the Mayor’s message related to the four critically  
28 important areas for the commission: 1) Connecting with community groups to establish a  
29 network of trusted messengers; 2) Participating in the Mayor’s initiatives; 3) working with  
30 Human Resources to advocate for diversity and cultural competency training for city  
31 employees; 4) Providing city departments with feedback and various plan, projects, and  
32 initiatives, providing city with the “voice of the constituent”. The Commissioners were excited  
33 to hear what the Mayor believed was critical. The Commission expressed that it was important  
34 to align with the Mayor’s critical areas. They desire to appoint Commissioners to different  
35 demographics and groups in the City. By aligning a commissioner with a demographic group,  
36 the commission felt they could center on building relationships and trust within the groups.  
37 The Commissioners want the demographic groups to come and tell their stories so they have a  
38 voice instead of the commissioners being their voice. A motion was made and passed that the  
39 Commission’s focus will be on accountability by connecting with the community through  
40 identifying demographic groups. The goals would be two-fold: 1) community - building trusted  
41 messengers and 2) City – serve in an advisory role to city departments. There was some  
42 discussion. Commissioner Sutton said that Emily Yim had done some work on a contact list of  
43 community groups. The Commissioners requested that the list be forwarded electronically to  
44 them. The Commissioners determined that they would continue researching who the  
45 demographic groups might be and availability of the commissioners for meeting to work on

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1 the Strategic Plan. Chair Graziani asked to defer the date of the next meeting to later in the  
2 meeting.

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4 **70. New Business:**

5 **70.1 Summary of the meeting with the Mayor** – Chair Graziani stated that she had a very  
6 affable meeting with the Mayor and Art last Thursday. They briefed Chair Graziani on the  
7 Commission’s progress with the Strategic Plan and she was also informed that the Mayor’s  
8 office would not be funding the Latino event. Chair Graziani said she was focused on  
9 agreement so she felt that the Commission could find a meaningful alternative. She gave some  
10 history related to the National Latino Heritage Month. Art had proposed that the council do a  
11 proclamation for the month. Events do not fit into the critical areas; however, on the budget  
12 request there was the community lectures and town halls that could work more with the  
13 Community Vision. Art asked to clarify that the Mayor felt that at this point the Commission  
14 needs to focus on moving forward on a strategic plan and incorporating the community vision  
15 then there would be a dialog with the City. Vice Chair Paltiel brought out that it was important  
16 to focus on the goal of the strategic which was 1) trusted messengers’ network – bring the  
17 demographic groups in and hear from them; and 2) being an advisory group to the City. There  
18 was more discussion. Some concern and frustration was expressed about losing the civic  
19 events. Commissioner Shimelish asked to table the discussion as there was more on the  
20 agenda.

21  
22 Chair Graziani asked to add to the agenda. Commissioner Sutton seconded and the motion  
23 carried. Chair Graziani proposed a Latin American Art event. She was asking for a venue such  
24 as the Senior Center. Discussion continued around waiting until after the strategic plan was  
25 done. Motion was tabled.

26  
27 Chair Graziani moved to include the strategic meeting schedule concern. She asked that the  
28 commission consider extending the next meeting an extra half hour instead of having a  
29 separate day for a meeting. The motion was made to have the strategic planning meeting on  
30 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday with the commission meeting running from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
31 Commission voted and passed motion with four in agreement and two against.

32  
33 Chair Graziani made a motion that the minutes for the meetings be sent out on the Friday  
34 before the meeting. Commissioner Sutton seconded. There was a discussion. The motion was  
35 tabled.

36  
37 **70.2 Healthy Communities Action Plan** – Deputy Director Sarah Olson gave a presentation on  
38 Healthy Communities and creating a ten year action plan that will be final by the end of the  
39 year. The World Health Organization defined health as the state of complete physical, mental  
40 and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. There are 120  
41 community stakeholders. The plan is aligning with the community vision to make Lynnwood  
42 accountable, sustainable and vibrant. The plan’s goals are to improve the community in three  
43 areas: 1) Physical activity; 2) Food Access 3) Social connectedness. Deputy Director Olson went  
44 over some of the demographics of the community. 21% of Lynnwood’s population is youth.  
45 The largest increase looks to be the 14% senior population with the current population aging

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1 and the increase in senior housing. Racial make-up of Lynnwood’s population is 35% non-  
2 white; 27% foreign born and 10% linguistically isolated.

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4 Chair Graziani moved to extend the commission meeting ten minutes. The motion was  
5 approved.

6

7 Deputy Director Olson led a brainstorming session with the commission to come up with some  
8 ideas to improve the social connections within the community.

9 **70.3 Board and Commission Update** – Deputy Director Olson briefed about the recently  
10 adopted changes to the board and commission ordinances that were referenced earlier in the  
11 meeting. The changes were to standardize the language for all the boards and commissions.  
12 The recently formed Historical Commission was looking for a liaison from the Diversity  
13 Commission which is a non-voting position. She asked that the Commission consider selecting  
14 a liaison to the Historical Commission.

15 **70.4 Art Commission Student Project** – Deputy Director Olson introduced Elizabeth Lundsford  
16 from the Arts Commission Program Committee. The Arts Commission had partnered with the  
17 Diversity Commission on the Ciudad Interior Contemporary Dance Performance. The  
18 Commission meets next Tuesday and they would like to do more partnerships with the  
19 Diversity Commission.

20

21 **80. Staff Update** – tabled to next meeting

22 **90. Comments for the good of the order** – tabled to next meeting

23 **100. Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by Chair Graziani.