

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council January 19, 2011

Present: Joan Fischer, Michael Goodmurphy, Juan Carrera, Saleh Alathamena, Lourdes Assis, Rose Aquino, Suzanne Huot, Patricia Mazariegos, Bernie Koenig, Mahin Ghasemiyani, German Gutierrez and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: David Cottrill, Andrea Hallam, Robin Armistead, Dharshi Lacey.

Welcome & Introductions,

Juan Carrera, Community Planning Specialist from United Way of London & Middlesex was introduced as a new member of the Sub-council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of November 15, 2011 were approved.

Neighbourhood Immigrant Engagement Strategy

An example of the community engagement guide created by the Alberta Ministry of Children Services was circulated as an example. Timelines for this activity need to be adjusted.

Community Immigrant Strategy will be updated and circulated to the group for review.

Inter-Action Event Stream Discussion

The Inter-Action Event funding was added to the agenda for discussion.

The group discussed possible directions to approach the Inter-Action grant. It was discussed that the grant would help move forward some of the strategies relating to engaging the immigrant and host community.

The groups discussed that the events should be youth themed, family friendly and consider childcare. They also suggested that the activities may alternate between communities:

- Canada Day celebrations Community Fair
- Photo voice projects followed by a celebration and exhibition of the work
- Living museums
- Soccer tournaments
- Cultural Coffee Break

ACTION: Nina will take the grant to neighbourhood groups to see if there is interest in pursuing it.

ACTION: Lourdes and Bernie volunteered to be part of the group that works on the proposal.

Review of year one Plan and Prioritize for Year Two

The group decided to keep the “media literacy council strategy” on the radar, while acknowledging that this has been taken up by the Strategic Multimedia Communication Plan and Central Council.

ACTION: The Inter-Action Grant initiative was added to the Implementation Plan.

The group discussed the importance of engaging the host community and the immigrants. There needs to be interactive engagement between both priorities.

It was suggested that engagement of host community should also be included in the neighbourhood engagement strategy.

For year two, it was suggested that an activity, to engage newcomers with the host community is a neighbourhood exchange program whereby associations could learn from each other while also engaging newcomers in the process. It would involve taking established communities and having them having meet up with the people of other neighbourhoods. The goal would be to connect engaged people in London with newcomers.

ACTION: Bernie Koenig will meet with the Urban League on Thursday, January 27 to share the work of the Inclusion & Civic Engagement and opportunities for information sharing.

Next Meeting and Wrap-up

Next meeting will be held on March 9, 2011 2:30 – 4:30 pm. at Kinsmen Recreation Centre (20 Granville Street) room 4a.

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