



MINUTES

**WELCOMING AMERICA COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARDROOM, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM #400
115 E. WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024, 3:30 PM**

The Welcoming America Commission convened in regular session at 3:30 PM, August 19, 2024. Meeting called the meeting to order at 3:55 pm.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Surinder Sethi	Board Member	Present
Adinda Akmal	Board Member	Present
Levi Sturgeon	Board Member	Present
Donna Bolen	Councilperson	Present
Michael Hurt	Staff Liaison	Present

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

No items were considered.

5. Regular Agenda

- A. Nomination and Action to Appoint a Chairperson for Welcoming America Commission
(Recommended Motion: The Commission nominate and vote to approve a Chairperson.)

Commissioners voted to table the nomination and appointment of Chairperson until more commissioners were seated.

- B. Nomination and Action to Appoint a Vice Chairperson for the Welcoming America Commission
(Recommended Motion: The Commission nominate and vote to approve a Vice Chairperson.)

Commissioners voted to table nomination and appointment of Vice Chairperson until more commissioners were seated.

- C. Presentation and Discussion on comments and suggestions made by residents, community groups, etc., impacting the well-being of immigrants to the City
(Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.)

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Councilperson Donna Bolen gave the commissioners background information on the formation of the Welcoming America Commission. She elaborated on some of the issues that are facing immigrant residents and how council decisions impacted the lives of immigrant residents.

Commissioner Sethi discussed personal experience as a new immigrant to the Bloomington Community. He helped to establish a strong coalition of Indian immigrants over 50 years ago which has thrived and is still in effect in the community.

- D. Discussion of establishing Welcoming America Standards (*Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.*)

Commissioners were given folders containing a hard copy of the Welcoming America Standards. They preferred electronic copies so Staff Liaison will send website information to the Commissioners. Will discuss and review standards at next meeting.

- E. Presentation and Discussion on any update of current issues affecting the immigrant community. (*Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.*)

- F. Discussion on program development for Welcoming Week (*Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.*)

Commissioners wanted to know their role in Welcoming Week. Staff Liaison shared that Welcoming Week is a collaboration of various community organizations and their particular offerings for Welcoming Week. The city has taken upon itself to collect a list of the Welcoming Week events and publish them on social media, radio, etc.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2024

6. Commissioner Comments

- 7. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn-Commissioner Sethi, Second-Commissioner Akmal
Meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm

Staff Liaison