

CITY OF PLANO
MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH MEETING (MCOR)
Training Room A, Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue

Minutes of the Meeting – October 9, 2007

Attendees:

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Christopher Parr
Mary Alice Garza

Frozina Goussak
Morris Garcia
Mumtaz Rahemtulla

Graciela Katzer
James Li

Dawnetta Miller
Jacqueline Scimemi

City Staff:

Sally Magnuson
Dee Dee Falls

I. Welcome

Mary Alice Garza, co-chair of MCOR, welcomed the group.

II. Comments from the public

Mary Alice asked if there were any comments from the public and Ms. Mumtaz Rahemtulla introduced herself. She is a representative of the Aga Khan Foundation and spoke about the Partnership Walk 2007. This walk is on October 14 in Dallas at City Hall Plaza and is one of many around the United States, Canada and Europe. The walk is to raise awareness and funds for innovative, community-led projects that support programs in health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment to improve opportunities and the quality of life in some of the poorest regions of Asia and Africa. 100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to support the Foundation's projects. The Foundation works with communities at the grassroots level to build the skills, tools and resources they need to become self-sufficient. This approach gives them a stronger chance at success. Ms. Rahemtulla passed out brochures and flyers giving all necessary information to sign up for the walk.

III. Introduction of New Members

James Li introduced himself. He represents Universal Culture Exchange Association which is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization looking for ways to become involved in Plano with the multicultural community. He heard about MCOR and wanted to see what it was all about and thought it would be a good fit with his company. Mary Alice Garza asked if James or someone from his organization could come and speak at MCOR in the future and tell a little bit about the organization and what they did.

IV. Reading, Amendment and Approval of Minutes

Jacqueline Scimemi moved to approve the minutes from the 09-11-07 meeting; this was seconded by Graciela Katzer. The minutes were approved by all present at the meeting

V. Committee Reports

a. Report from the Cultural Affairs Committee

Jacqueline Scimemi reported on the MCOR Reception (see details below under MCOR Reception Report) and also said that since the reception several other ideas had been brought forth to keep the momentum going. These ideas included a panel discussion regarding diversity and would involve diversity officers from Plano

businesses and organizations. Another idea was a cooking event featuring international dishes and recipes submitted from various representatives in the community, the end result possibly culminating in a cookbook.

b. Report from the Government Participation Committee

No report from this Committee.

c. Report from the Membership Committee:

No report from this Committee.

d. Report from the Recreation Committee:

No report from this Committee.

VI. Plano International Festival (PIF) Report

Graciela Katzer reports that all is organized and there have been very good articles and reviews in the radio, television and print media. The local media will be broadcasting PSA's and the Dallas Morning News will be running advertisements about the event also. The Plano Profile recently published a very good article on the festival. More information will also be in the Spanish and Chinese newspapers and a PSA in Spanish is scheduled to air on Channels 5 & 8. PTN and radio ads are also being broadcast. There is collaboration between the festival and a Spanish language AM radio station to possibly do a broadcast from the festival itself. Many festival applications have been received and processed and groups can participate in a variety of ways including having booths, being in the fashion show and walking in the Parade of Nations. Morris Garcia asked about the criteria used by the PIF Board Members when they accepted or denied a group's application for participation and it was decided that this question would be addressed after the MCOR meeting since the decisions made about the PIF are made by the PIF board and not by MCOR. Frozina Goussak said that she invited all faculty members from Collin County Community College. Festival flyers have been sent out in the city utility bills and 8,500 are expected to attend the festival. Dr. Chris Parr will send out an email asking for volunteers for the MCOR table at the festival and the group asked that brochures also be printed for dissemination at the event. Last year the PIF got a lot of "in kind" donations but not a lot of monetary donations. The PIF has created a committee within the board to visit with all Collin County organizations. They will do a presentation and show a video regarding the PIF and will show potential donors how they can become involved.

VII. MCOR Reception Report

This MCOR meeting is the first one since the MCOR Reception was held on September 20. Jacqueline noted that over 100 people attended the reception and she complimented the beautiful facility (Center for American and International Law), the Central Market caterers and staff and the refreshments. All was very well done. Jacqueline has created a Thank You letter for review and comment and asks that everyone take a look at it. It will go out to all attendees. Graciela Katzer said that she made a lot of connections to people at the reception and many spoke of supporting and becoming more involved with the Plano International Festival and MCOR. It was suggested that the reception become an annual event, and several members asked that it possibly be scheduled earlier in the year instead of so close to the PIF.

VIII. Discussion of MCOR Brochure

The Plano International Festival will have a table for MCOR representatives to sit at in order to educate PIF attendees about MCOR. The finalized version of the MCOR brochure will be available at the MCOR table.

IX. Items for future agendas

No items mentioned for future agendas.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7 p.m. in Training Room A at Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.