

Cultural Communities Board Agenda

Kent City Staff: Mayor Suzette Cooke, Dinah Wilson – Human Services

City Council Members: Bill Boyce, Council President, Jim Berrios, Brenda Fincher, Dennis Higgins, Dana Ralph

Cultural Community Board Members: Beabe Akpojobwo, Davies Chirwa, Josephine Karanja, Yusuf Bashir, Marvin Eckfeldt, Mizanur Rahman, Norma Maldonado, Rand Al Hammadi, Satwinder Kaur, Sharnsdeep Kaur, Sonia Morales, Hussein Al Kinani, Cesar Rangel, Ta Kwe Say Vaivao Semisi Tupou, Yuriy Zarembo, Shamsu Issak, Ted Schwarz

Board Advisors: Pastor Herbert Carey, Marwa Almusawi

April 25, 2017, 6:30 - 8 p.m.*

Kent Senior Activity Center, Room 8

600 East Smith Street

Kent, WA 98032

***6:00 p.m. Dinner/Networking (Dinner Provided for Board)**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Time</u>
1.	Call to order			1
2.	Roll Call			1
3.	Changes to the Agenda			1
4.	Welcome		Mayor Cooke	
5.	Approve March Minutes	Yes		1
6.	Announcements		All	
7.	Discuss Cultural Communities Board Survey			
8.	Adjourn			

The Cultural Communities Board meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in various locations throughout Kent. For additional information please contact Dinah Wilson at 253-856-5076, or via email at drwilson@kentwa.gov.

Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the City Clerk's Office at 253-856-5725 in advance. For TDD relay service call Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-833-6388.

This page intentionally left blank.

Approval Pending

Attending (CCB Members):

Yusuf Bashir
Marvin Eckfeldt
Rand Al Hammadi
Shamso Issak
Josephine Karanja
Satwinder Kaur
Sharnshoke Kaur
Hussein Al Kinani
Dr. Sonia Morales
Mizanur Rahman (Mizan)
Cesar Rangel
Ta Kwe Say
Ted Schwarz
Vaivao Semisi-Tupou

Elected Officials, Staff & Guests:

Mayor Suzette Cooke, Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Brian Steward, Patrick Briggs, Ty Whitfield, Samiha Bhuiyan, Sumaya Dirie and Deeqa Mah.

Absent:

Marwa Almusawi
Pastor Herbert Carey
Norma Maldonado
Dinah Wilson (staff)

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Rangel called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Attendees listed above.

3. Welcome/Changes to the Agenda

Brief welcome by Mayor Cooke who then noted one change to the agenda.

Approval Pending

Mayor Cooke introduced two guests, Sumaya Dirie and Deeqa Mah. Ms. Dirie and Ms. Mah.

Ms. Dirie and Ms. Mah introduced themselves to the Board and talked about their work in establishing a program to assist youth in Kent – primarily focused on elementary students. Their mission is to mentor youth on the importance of higher education and asked the Board for assistance in making connections in the community. Several Board members offered suggestions and contacts to assist them.

Mayor Cooke introduced Samiha Bhuiyan, a prospective CCB member and Kentwood High School student who volunteers with the Kent-Bengali and Muslim Population and connects youth with Kent City government.

4. Approve February Minutes

February minutes approved (Vaivao Semisi Tupou moved and Beabe Akpojovwo seconded).

5. Discuss Information from February Meeting

Mr. Eckfeldt was pleased Chief Thomas addressed the Board in February and felt the community meeting for people to come together of all faiths following the shooting of a Sikh community member was extremely valuable. He suggested a presentation to local schools would be welcomed in the future.

Mr. Bashir commented that members in his and other communities have questions about immigration and suggested having a speaker address members of Kent's diverse populations that wish to hear what documents are legally required for work and personal issues such as banking. Information from immigration and customs could be added to the city's website.

Mr. Chirwa agreed that people are very concerned over future documentation requirements for travel – inside and outside of the US.

Mr. Rahman mentioned that holders of an enhanced driver's license (EDL) are **accepted only at land and sea border crossings**—not for air travel. Passports are required for all air travel.

6. Advancing Multicultural Awareness

Approval Pending

Mayor Cooke opened discussion on how CCB members can introduce themselves and CCB's mission to Kent residents.

The CCB will develop solid projects in the Kent community related to our many diverse cultures, religion and perhaps even food.

In an effort to educate the public and offer a safe venue for residents to learn about other cultures, the following ideas were generated:

- Public comment (3 minutes ea.) at city council meetings
- Tour/worship in different faiths followed by Q&A
- Identify diverse businesses serving the public
- Host community forums representing different cultures/religions
- Present to service clubs in Kent (Rotary and Kiwanis for example)
- Conduct a needs assessment from various communities
- Identify leadership in each cultural community (data)
- Address and engage with neighborhood councils in Kent
- Go to schools
- Invite each other personally to attend cultural meetings
- Helicopter approach – bigger group/picture
- Monthly place and time to connect safety across cultures (perhaps a park dedicated to cultural communities)

Members of the Board will be emailed a survey of the projects listed above and asked to commit to one or more in which they would like to participate. Those results will be shared at next month's meeting.

CCB members were invited to take a tour of the Kent Phoenix Academy with Brian Steward to.

7. Tour of Phoenix Academy

Brian Steward took CCB members on a tour of the facility and to learn about the wide variety of available programs.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Notes taken by: Patrick Briggs