

## **CULTURAL COMMUNITIES BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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**Tuesday April 23, 2019 / 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Centennial Center - 400 W Gowe st. Kent WA 98032**

**City Staff:** Uriel Varela

**Presenters:** Kent Drug Free Coalition

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**Board members present:** Yusuf Bashir, Davies Chirwa, Marvin Eckfeldt, Sara Franklin-Phillips, Norma Maldonado, Miszanur Rahman, Vaivao Semisi-Tupou, Ted Schwarz, Tanya Medina, Lelei Masina.

**Other's present:** Councilmember Troutner, Dave Hobbs, Paula Frederick

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Introductions:**

- Everyone who was in attendance was asked to introduce themselves and answer the following question.
- If you could be anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would that be and why?
- All board members and visitors answered the question and learned something about each other.

### **Conversation with KDFC:**

- The conversation began with councilmember Toni Troutner explaining the mission and vision of the Kent Drug Free Coalition.
- The board members were then asked the following question;
  - What role, if any, does your culture play in how drug use is addressed in your community?
  - Board members began to talk about how their culture or religion affects the way that their community members approach to topic of drug use.
  - One of the participants mentioned that in her community, drug abuse by their family members is not talked about because of the stigma that exists within that community.
  - Other board members agreed that a cultural stigma exists within many of our diverse communities in our city.
- The conversation then turned to culturally appropriate resources for communities who do not feel like they would not receive adequate service by some of the mainstream social services.
- A board member suggested that the Kent Drug Free Coalition should have youth representatives who help reach out to other youth.
- Councilmember Troutner mentioned that the Police Department has a very diverse youth group who works with other youth to prevent drug abuse.

**Announcements:**

- The conversation took most of the meeting and there was no time for announcements.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**