

**DUNCANVILLE COMMUNITY MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION  
JOINT MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2012**

A joint meeting with the Duncanville City Council and the Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission was held Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 6:33 p.m. The following members were present:

**Duncanville City Council**

Mayor David L. Green	Councilmember Janet Harris
Councilmember Leslie Thomas	Councilmember Don Freeman
Councilmember Grady Smithey	

**Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission**

Robert Gultery	Ben Orozco
Mary Fae Kamm	Gemma Lopez
Carole Fennig	Bailey Tyler (absent)
David Ross	Cheryl Mayo (Chair; absent)
Ray Uehara	Leslie Brinkerhoff (Vice-chair)
Beverly Gipson	

Staff: Public Information Officer Tonya Lewis

**ITEM 1:** Mayor David L. Green opened the discussion by asking referencing the two letters submitted by the Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission to the City Council recommending a Government 101 program and an amendment to the Commission's Mission Statement.

*Beverly Gipson joined the meeting at 6:37p.m.*

During the discussion on a Government 101 program, Mayor Green said it was a great idea, but the City was short staffed at the moment. Les Brinkerhoff gave an overview of Government 101 program. Councilmember Leslie Thomas inquired about creating a video for new citizens. Councilmember Janet Harris mentioned that the City already has Board and Commission video. Councilmember Smithey mentioned that the City used to have a Newcomer's club and that the City with short staffed and will have a new City Manager. Commission members Ray Uehara and Mary Fae Kamm mentioned that the program would be simple and allow citizens to learn how the City operates. Councilmember Thomas mentioned the idea of a City Fair. Carole Fennig said the program would be geared not just towards new residents' but those that are not currently engaged in city activities. Councilmember Don Freeman said he would like to see the program educate citizens. Councilmember Harris said that the program should not be costly and that the Commission should reach out to the business community to let them know a program is being developed. Mayor Green and Councilmember Harris said it was a great idea and should be implemented and asked the Commission to submit their preliminary ideas in writing. Mayor Green advised that due to being short staffed that the

program would take time to implement. The City Council gave the Commission consent to research programs, develop a plan, and present it to the Council for consideration.

The Council reviewed the Commission's request to amend the Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission Mission Statement. Mayor Green said no action was needed as there were no objections from Council. Councilmember Thomas commented that she liked the amendment and liked what the Commission was doing.

Brinkerhoff mentioned the 2011 DCMC Accomplishments. Those accomplishments included: Taste of Duncanville, the cancellation of only one meeting since the Commission's inception, and a utility bill insert and survey. Public Information Officer Tonya Lewis passed out copies of the accomplishments hand-out to the City Council. Councilmember Thomas commented that she would like to see the Commission recognize or celebrate Texas Independence Day. Mayor Green, Councilmember Smithey, and Kamm commented on the history of Duncanville and the surrounding area. Mayor Green closed by saying the Commission was doing a marvelous job. Council members Smithey and Thomas asked the DCMC to let the Council know what resources they needed. Councilmember Thomas added that funding was needed for the Commission and she was happy about what the Commission has done. Councilmember Freeman added that he was glad to see a mix of ages represented on the Commission.

**ITEM 2:** The joint meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

*The Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission reconvened at 7:04p.m.*

**ITEM 3:** Ray Uehara was incorrectly recorded as attending the November 17, 2011. He asked that the minutes be amended to correct the attendance record. Mary Fae Kamm made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Gemma Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

**ITEM 4:** Kamm made a motion to nominate Les Brinkerhoff as Chair of the DCMC. Beverly Gipson seconded the motion. Ben Orozco nominated himself as Vice-Chair. Gipson seconded the motion. Kamm made a motion to accept all names proposed. Gipson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0). Les Brinkerhoff is the Chair, and Ben Orozco is Vice Chair of the DCMC. Brinkerhoff mentioned that he would like everyone to feel included and not feel blocked or unable to speak. He added that anyone could email him anything they weren't able to express at the meeting. Brinkerhoff added that Tonya Lewis has been wonderful and he appreciates her service. Fennig said she wanted the minutes to reflect Brinkerhoff's statement's about Lewis' performance.

**ITEM 5:** Fennig said she believes the Commission should take a closer look at the Citizen Survey finding. Brinkerhoff suggested that the Commission study the survey outside of the meetings. Fennig made a motion that the Commission members review the following areas of the survey responses: Civic Engagement, Community Inclusiveness, and Public Trust and review it for next meeting. Ray Uehara seconded the motion. The

motion passed 9-0. Lewis said she would create a folder in Dropbox for survey and other Commission documents.

**ITEM 6:** Kamm provided more information about the Multicultural Festival. She said a graphic designer named Gerri Brown approached her about the DCMC participating in or helping organize the festival. The following ideas were proposed: having different cultural booths at the festival, offering a “passport” that could be stamped after visiting each booth; providing incentives or giving prizes for getting your passport stamped; possibly combining other cultural celebrations namely Festival in Duncanville with the Multicultural Festival to reach a broader audience. The Commission had the following questions for Brown regarding the event:

- What would be the DCMC’s role?
- Has Brown organized a festival or event before?
- When would it be held?
- And, how would it be financed?

The Commission asked Lewis to contact city staff to inquire about hosting the festival and utilizing the Festival in Duncanville budget to finance the Multicultural Festival. The discussion included: How would Hispanics residents feel about the Festival in Duncanville being a Multicultural Festival, making sure the festival is very inclusive, and identifying September 15, 2012 as a potential date for the Multicultural Festival. Brinkerhoff made a motion research the event further. Robert Gultery seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

**ITEM 7:** The Commission reviewed the tentative agendas for the upcoming few months, which are as follows:

**February 16, 2012**

- 2012 Work Plan
- Multicultural Festival discussion
- Taste of Duncanville preparation

**March 15, 2012**

- Taste of Duncanville

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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BOARD SECRETARY