

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
 TIME: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
 LOCATION: Virtual Zoom Meeting

### I. Call to Order | Welcome

- Roll Call:

#### Board

Mr. Bruce Abrams, Board Chair	–	Present
Ms. Mary Abad, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Valerie Attisha, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Leslie Bassett, Board Member	–	Absent
Mr. Kevin Cruz, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Melissa Floca, Board Member	–	Absent
Mr. Andre Kwan, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Mark Leo, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Jordan Marks, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Chandler Martin, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Bob Morris, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Hilda Mwangi, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Fabienne Perlov, Board Member	–	Present
Mr. Daniel Suh, Board Member	–	Absent
Mr. Oscar Urteaga, Board Member	–	Absent
Ms. Caroleen Williams, Board Member	–	Present
Ms. Kenia Zamarripa, Board Member	–	Present

#### City Staff

Rita Fernandez, Executive Director	–	Present
Mathew Gordon, Appointments	–	Present

#### Speakers

Brian D’Amico, San Airport Authority	–	Present
Farhat Popal, Immigrant Affairs	–	Present
Melissa Floca, Cross-Border Initiatives	–	Absent

### II. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None given; no members of the public present.

### III. Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes

Caroleen Williams proposed, Valorie Attisha 2nded.  
Marks Leo abstains, the rest approves.

### IV. Updates from the Mayor's Office

#### a. Mathew Gordon, Director of Appointments/Boards and Commissions

- Plan is to have new members of the council approved by June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Goal is to have at least 5 new members on the board.
- Commitment to facilitate communication and to make sure that recommendations of the IAB are heard.
- Commitment to checking in periodically with IAB.
- Overhauled appointment process to reduce appointment delays. There should be a new website online before the end of this fiscal year.
- Jordan Marks asked if information of who is being appointed will be available to the IAB to help facilitate their transition. Mathew Gordon stated that it will be made available by Rita Fernandez once the appointments are approved by the Mayor.

#### b. Rita Fernandez, Director of Global Affairs

- Office of Global affairs is leading the migrant shelter at the San Diego Convention Center. This is a project currently ongoing. 1450 young unaccompanied minors are currently being housed at the center.
  - Goal is to get them to Health and Human Services and then back with their parents.
  - Duration of stay is 30-40 days on average.
  - Provides case management.
  - Support from local organizations and by education services.
    - Current outstanding needs are listed on a landing page on the website.
  - Reunited 900 children with their families so far.
- The Mayor has had meeting with the consul general of the UK and consul general of Canada. They have reached out to all the consul generals in LA and are working to reach out to those in San Francisco.
- The retreat will be happening in late June. Currently uncertain whether it will be in person or virtual.

### V. Presentation | Brian D'Amico, San Diego Airport Authority

- Pre-COVID 11 international nonstop destinations, 70 total.
- Post-COVID 27 total nonstop destinations. Lost nonstop destinations to many international travel hubs in the US.
- Post-COVID 59 total nonstop destinations restoring much of the national travel destinations and resumed travel with Japan Airlines.
  - April 2021 first month crossed 50% of pre-COVID travel numbers, May MTD 55.7% of 2019 traffic.
  - 2024 is expected return to 2019 levels. 2022 optimistically.
- Main impediment to restoring international travel is country restrictions.
  - Mexico has the highest number of flights due to low restrictions.
- California hit harder than most states in its reduction in traveler throughput.

- Over Summer planning to restore national services to cities in Montana, Washington, Vermont, etc. This will increase international connectivity (non-stop).
- Currently almost all Airlines are changing to a leisure focus as a fundamental part of their business strategy as opposed to some being Business focused pre-COVID. This is to San Diego's benefit as San Diego International Airport is both a business and leisure hub so they can leverage this to increase routes to the city.
- Port Authority has mentioned cruises may resume at the end of the year which may have an impact on airport traffic.

**VI. Presentation | Farhat Popal, Immigrant Affairs Manager, City of San Diego**

- Welcoming San Diego Strategic Plan: a series of recommendations to assist refugees, immigrants, and asylees.
- Immigrant Affairs position has established welcoming stations, opened communications with local groups and international communities, as well as advocating immigrant focused policy.
- COVID has impacted the community and so they are reevaluating priorities for affected communities, it has also affected the city budget and therefore available programs.
- Current Priorities: Advocate and ally of immigrant goals in infrastructure and providing language access. These are seen as a prerequisite for establishing larger programs. There is also a focus on finding federal funding that is made available.

**VII. Presentation | Melissa Floca, Program Officer for Cross-Border Initiatives, Kroc School's Institute for Peace and Justice, USD**

- Absent due to work emergency

**VIII. Chair's Report**

Youth ambassador initiative follow-up

Thanking Departing Members:

Bruce Abrams  
 Oscar Urteaga  
 Jordan Marks  
 Valerie Attisha  
 Kevin Cruz  
 Daniel Suh  
 Bob Morris

**IX. Adjourn**