

**PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)
November 13, 2012**

MCOR Co-Chairs Present

Jian Li, Co-Chair
Shaheen Salam, Co-Chair
Mary Alice Garza, Co-Chair

MCOR Co-Chairs Absent

Sally Magnuson, Co-Chair

Staff Members Present

Dee Dee Falls

MCOR Co-Chair Shaheen Salam convened the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2012, in Training Room A of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Co-Chair Garza read Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Graciela Katzer's report on the recent Plano International Festival in Chair Katzer's absence. The report said that every year in October, downtown Plano's Haggard Park turns into a mini United Nations for the Plano International Festival. On Saturday October 13th, the 8th annual event gave 15,000 visitors a chance to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of the world with ethnic music and dance performances, an international food court, cultural displays, hands-on children's activities and much more. Over 100 cultures were represented through the various activities, performances and displays, giving local cultural groups a chance to share their heritage with the whole community. As always, the festival began with a naturalization ceremony. Nearly 50 people from all over the world were sworn in as new citizens. The ceremony was followed by continuous on-stage performances from diverse cultures such as Aztec, German, African American and Argentinian. Festival goers feasted on cuisine from India, the Mediterranean, Mexico and more. Kids visited the cultural booths and got their own Festival Passports stamped as they toured the world. The festival is a green event with a comprehensive Zero Waste program. Every year, the festival diverts more and more waste from landfill by collecting organic waste as well as recyclables and regular trash. The program has successfully diverted over 80% of all waste generated from landfill, even as the event grows in attendance.

READING, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 9, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Co-Chair Salam asked that the minutes be amended under **Comments From the Public** to read that she was in fact visiting relatives in **Malaysia** (and not the Middle East). Co-Chair Garza moved that the **revised** minutes of the October meeting be approved and MCOR Co-Chair Salam seconded the motion. The **revised** minutes were approved by all present at the meeting.

Guest Speaker Jamee Jolly, President and CEO of the Plano Chamber of Commerce, will discuss achieving success through advocacy, education and business development opportunities within the Plano Chamber of Commerce

Guest Speaker Jolly, spoke about the Plano Chamber of Commerce and showed a Powerpoint presentation explaining how the Chamber interacts with the Community and benefits businesses as well as consumers. The Chamber works closely with the City of Plano, Collin County, PISD, Collin College, Plano Economic Development and other community organizations and works toward keeping the community business friendly. 52% of Plano's population has a bachelor's degree and this is attractive to businesses and companies that may move here. All five hospitals in Plano are accredited and Plano is home to 5 Fortune 1000 headquarters. In addition, Plano has been ranked high in many categories such as being the "Safest City in America" for two years in a row, one of the healthiest cities for women, one of the best run cities and many other accolades. These factors among many others contribute to Plano being popular with both businesses and consumers. A great tax rate, tax abatement, balanced commercial and residential tax base and having the

highest bond rating are also contributing factors. Three ways that the Chamber interacts with and serves the community are:

- Advocacy, by building relationship with local, state and federal government.
- Networking, by providing opportunities for businesses to get together and share information.
- Education, by offering training for members on specific issues and keeping them informed and asking them to get involved with other community organizations to make sure they are engaged.

REPORTS

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Discussion of 2013 Community Circles event

Co-Chair Garza read Committee Chair Katzer's report which said that the 2013 Community Circles will take place at Collin College Spring Creek Campus on February 18, at 7 pm. This committee will be meeting again soon with Raul Martinez and Terry Hockenbrough to work towards finalizing this event.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Discussion of 2013 National Day of Prayer

Co-Chair Garza reported that the event is on Thursday, May 2, 2013 and that the Council Chambers are reserved for 7 pm. MCOR will invite leaders of Plano's diverse faith communities to offer prayers and musical presentations.

Discussion of 2013 Community Forum

Co-Chair Li will meet with committee members for plan this event which looks to be in June, 2013.

Discussion of 2013 Citizenship Workshop

Co-Chair Salam reported that the Citizenship Workshop date is Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 2-4 pm and will be held at the Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd, Plano. She has emailed participating attorneys and received a couple of responses. She will hold the kickoff meeting on November 26, 2012 at Parr Library at 7 pm. This event usually attracts over 100 attendees with attorneys and presentations. Fliers, posters and emails will be posted and sent out

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Discussion of December MCOR holiday gathering

There will not be a regular December MCOR meeting. Instead the group invites everyone to a holiday "potluck" on December 11 at Carpenter Recreation Center at 6701 Coit Road from 7-9 pm

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Discussion of December 1, 2012 Winter World Peace Table Tennis Tournament

No report at this time

Discussion of partnering with PTN on future cultural programming

No report at this time

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Planning MCOR speakers and activities for 2013
2013 Community Circles event
2013 National Day of Prayer event
2013 Citizenship Workshop event
2013 Community Forum event
PTN partnership with MCOR for programming

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm