

## Meeting Minutes

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, 12:00 P.M.

Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
500 S Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48502 – Suite 200  
(810) 767-8270

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### Commissioners Present:

Manal Saab, Chair  
Sharif Hussein, Vice-Chair  
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer  
Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary

Susan Dabaja, Trustee at Large  
Dave Abdallah  
Fadwa Hammoud  
Dr. Nabeel Obeid

#### Commissioners Absent:

Adel Mozip  
Chief Ronald Haddad  
Abe Munfakh  
Haifa Fakhouri

Fay Beydoun  
Michael Romaya  
Martin Manna

Staff: Ron Robinson (Assistant Attorney General), Karen Phillippi (Director, MONA), Lilian Boufakhreddine (CMEAA Coordinator)

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Saab at 12:16 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

Chair Saab introduced President of Community Foundation of Greater Flint Isaiah Oliver as the host of the meeting. Isaiah welcomed the Commission to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and spoke about the community-driven initiatives of the Community Foundation such as economic development and literacy.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: Commissioner Dabaja moved to accept the agenda. Motion supported by Commissioner Hourani-Harajli. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: Commissioner Sukkar moved to accept the updated minutes. Motion supported by Commissioner Abdallah. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Hourani-Harajli provided the Commission with January Treasurer's Report and reviewed financial details with the Commission. Commissioners were reminded that the 2018/2019 budget will remain at \$125,000.

**MOTION: Commissioner Hussein moved to accept the CMEAA January Treasurer's Report. Motion supported by Commissioner Abdallah. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **V. SOLICITOR GENERAL'S REPORT**

Newly-appointed Solicitor General Fadwa Hammoud was congratulated by the commission on her new position as Solicitor General. Commissioner Hammoud explained her role as solicitor general to the commission, and she stated that she is in direct connection to the higher courts as she works effortlessly for minorities and as the head of prosecution on the Flint Water Crisis.

### **VI. LARA/MONA DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

MONA Director Karen Phillippi informed the Commission that LARA has a new director, Orlene Hawks. Phillippi provided the commission with a breakdown of the LARA office positions under the new Governor Whitmer. Phillippi additionally informed the Commission that Michigan experienced a decrease in refugee arrivals in fiscal year 2018, but it is projected that Michigan will see an increase in refugee numbers in fiscal year 2019. Commissioners proceeded to discuss the process behind admitting refugees into the state. Phillippi additionally stated that MONA was in the process of putting together the State Refugee Resettlement Conference and multi-lingual brochures for the Michigan police.

Phillippi additionally informed the commission that a date was not secured for the New Americans Appreciation Gala due to the timing of the new administration beginning in January.

Commissioner Sharif stated the importance of the annual gala as it sets a precedence for the commissions and their initiatives. Chair Saab reflected on these sentiments and noted that the 2018 New Americans Appreciation Gala was sold out.

### **VII. ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY STATUS UPDATES**

Coordinator Boufakhreddine explained the edits that were made to the Economic Impact Study infographic according to the Commissioner feedback received at the December 5<sup>th</sup>,

2018 CMEAA meeting. Commissioners agreed that the infographic is ready for publishing on the CMEAA website.

**VIII. CMEAA Imitative Ideas for 2019 Fiscal Year**

Coordinator Lilian shared a calendar of 2019 events that included the several organizational involvements of different commissioners. Chair Saab started a discussion about how to use the remaining \$32,000 of CMEAA's budget in reference to the organizations. Commissioner Suzanne expressed that the Commission should be funding efforts that are not already represented by CMEAA commissioners in order to expand on CMEAA's initiatives. Commissioner Hammoud stated that the commission should be very deliberate and informed about prospective organizations to fund.

Commissioner Abdallah shared information about Zaman International with the Commission including a 6-minute video. Commissioners agreed that some of them will be making a trip to visit Zaman International to learn more about its culture and initiatives.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

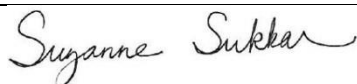
**XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m. by Chair Saab.

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Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary

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Manal B. Saab, Chair