



Minutes of the February 16, 2007 business meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Mary Santiago
Daniel Porras
Michael G. Florez
Chris Rodriguez
Richard Romero
Simon Rodriguez
Phillip R. Barbosa
Humberto Gonzalez
Blanche Aviles Casey

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

Guest attendance list

Attached

Absent

Ramona Reyes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 2-2007

To approve the December meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Romero. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

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CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Gonzalez expressed that the Commission is in a crossroad, more critical that when it was created. He informed that the Director, some board members and himself have been engaged in meeting with stakeholders in the General Assembly, the Senate and the Governor's office. He expresses that they must define the Commission's mission and growth in order to support the State of

Ohio and the community. He asked the board members to take this into consideration as they moved into the Retreat this evening and tomorrow, to prepare to put together a tangible plan of action for the commission survival in the future.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Director Escudero presented his report for December, 2006. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes as **Exhibit A**.

MOTION #2 - 2-2007 - To accept the Director's December report. Presented by Commission Porras. Seconded by Commissioner Romero, with the addendum suggestion made by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented his report for January, 2007. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes as **Exhibit B**.

MOTION #3 - 2-2007 - To accept the Director's January report. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive - No report

Finance

Commissioner Simms-Howell gave the financial report. The financial report is attached to these minutes as **Exhibit C**.

Education - No report

DHO

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Commissioner Santiago informed that the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards will be on April 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus. There are twelve awardees this year.

Communications

No report

OLD BUSINESS

Governmental Procedures Ad-Hoc Committee

Vice Chair Florez informed that he met with the Attorney General representative and she made some corrections to the Rules and Procedures of the Commission. They will work on the recommendations tomorrow at the retreat to bring them to the board for vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Santiago presented the list of nominees to the DHO to the board for approval.

MOTION #4 - 2-2007 - To approve the nominees for the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan and Nuestra Familia Awards as presented by Commissioner Santiago. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Nominees for Ohio Foreign Language Advisory Council (up to 4)

Director Escudero informed that the Commission was invited to nominate two individuals to serve on the Ohio Foreign Language Advisory Council. The Commission will submit to the Department of Education the following names: Victor Mora from Ohio State University, Rosemary Payne, teach from Dublin City Schools and Humberto Gonzalez, Chair of OCHLA.

New Committee Structure

This will be discussed during the retreat.

INVITED GUESTS - None

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #5 - 2-2007

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Romero informed that Commissioner Santiago and himself have been working together for the Spanish Leadership Conference, to be held on April 20 at the Lorain County Community College. This conference has plenty of workshops, good information and food and dancing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6 - 2-2007

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Barbosa. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Humberto Gonzalez, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary