



Minutes of the February 8, 2008 business meeting at Room West B and C 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners

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

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero  
Lilleana Cavanaugh

#### Guest attendance list

None

### ABSENT

Chris Rodriguez  
Humberto Gonzalez

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

### MOTION #1 - 02-2008

To approve the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

### CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Romero informed that the Board meeting in March would be on the 14<sup>th</sup>. and the Retreat on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Board members to submit any

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suggestions for the retreat's agenda and names and phone numbers of possible facilitators. Information can be sent by email to him.

Director Escudero suggested that the names and phone numbers of possible facilitators for the retreat be sent to him no later than Tuesday, February 12 at noon.

Chair Romero expressed to the Board that he wants to receive copy of all correspondence or emails between the board members and the Director. Commissioner Florez made the correction that the original meeting was for March 7, as announced in January, and now is moved to March 14.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero expressed that he will present his January and February reports at the next meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Executive

Chair Romero Chair Romero requested a meeting of the Executive Committee at 11:00 a.m. on March 14.

#### Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Santiago reported that they met with Matt Colopy from the Governor's office to talk about the DHO. The Governor wants to be involved in the event. Mr. Colopy suggested that the awards could be the Governor's Awards, like Distinguished Hispanics Governor's Awards. He suggested a partnership with the Ohio Arts Council and how they go through their awards banquet, to get ideas. That a meeting will be set with the contact person of the committee at the Ohio Arts Council. Also to try to work with the Latino artists in the areas to create the awards for the DHO. Mr. Colopy will be talking with the First Lady regarding her being the Speaker for this year's DHO.

Commissioner Santiago expressed that today she wants to close the nominations for the DHO.

Chair Romero suggested the creation of the Chair's Award this year. He expressed that a nice award must be presented to the Governor, since he is the

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first Governor that has given the Commission the financial support necessary to do something significant.

Commissioner Florez read the list of nominees for the DHO and for Nuestra Familia Award. The list is attached as **Exhibit A**.

**MOTION #2 - 02-2008** - To accept the list of nominees for the DHO and Nuestra Familia Awards and to include a Chair's Award. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

**MOTION #3 - 02-2008** - That each Commissioner has a nomination for the DHO awards. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. After discussion, Commissioner Santiago withdrew the motion.

**MOTION #4 - 02-2008** - To accept ten nominations for the DHO. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Commissioner Santiago informed about the suggestion, or challenge by Commissioner Simms-Howell, that every board member buy a table for the DHO.

### **Finance**

Commissioner Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report. Copy is attached as **Exhibit B**.

**MOTION #5 - 02-2008** - To accept the Financial Report. Presented by The Finance Committee Chair Commissioner Simms. Motion carried.

### **Education**

No meeting. Director Escudero informed that a meeting would be organized soon. There are plans for a statewide conference in June.

**Workforce & Economic Development** - Commissioner Barbosa informed that the office is working in a master agreement with the Department of Development, the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the Columbus Chambers of Commerce. A draft is being prepared and it will be presented to the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

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### OLD BUSINESS

Director presented the sample certificates to the Board and Chair Romero explained the purpose for giving the certificates.

### NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero informed that they are attending the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference in Chicago this month. He will present a full report about the conference next month on his Director's report. He informed that Ohio and Minnesota are chairing the conference and fifteen boards and commissions are represented. Ohio will be presenting on OLANet and Project Open. Ohio and Minnesota will propose that a steering committee be nominated and elect. Director Escudero will suggest that the Board Chair nominates Ohio.

Director Escudero gave an update to the Board regarding the statewide budget cuts been implemented. Boards and Commissions have not been officially affected so far, but will be affected. Contingency plans are being prepared and the Commission will be able to survive the cuts without any catastrophic failure of any of the programs. The candidate search for the position of Policy Liaison is frozen. The Office of Budget and Management has barred the Commission from feeling the position, but it is been appealed.

Chair Romero expressed that since the board is waiting for the re-appointment of Ramona Reyes, the Vice Chair position is vacant.

Commissioner Florez expressed that a temporary Vice Chair must be appointed.

MOTION #6 - 02-2008 - To appoint Commissioner Blanche Aviles Casey as Interim Vice Chair. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Aviles Casey reported that she attended a Business to Business diversity meeting in Dayton. The meeting had the purpose to address diversity issues within different business. She had the opportunity to meet Janet Mullen, from Sales and Marketing at FOX-ABC and talked about OLANet and invited her to sign so they will be able to advertise the vacancies within their company.

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Commissioner Santiago announced the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Lorain on April 26.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7 - 02-2008 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Rodriguez. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Richard Romero, Chair

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Michael G. Florez, Secretary

## ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

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### MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 - 02-2008	To approve the January 18 minutes
Motion #2 - 02-2008	To accept the list of nominees for the DHO and Nuestra Familia Awards and to include a Chair's Award.
Motion #3 - 02-2008	That each Commissioner has a nomination for the DHO. This motion was withdrawn.
Motion #4 - 02-2008	To accept ten nominations for the DHO.
Motion #5 - 02-2008	To accept the Financial Report.
Motion #6 - 02-2008	To appoint Commissioner Blanche Aviles Casey as Interim Vice Chair.
Motion #7 - 02-2008	To adjourn the meeting

