



Minutes of the March 14, 2008 business meeting at Room 1960 19th. 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
Michael G. Florez

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Susan De Luca

Guest attendance list

Attached

ABSENT

Chris Rodriguez - Excused
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused
Simon Rodriguez - Excused (sick)

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were six commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 03-2008

To approve the February 8, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Romero informed that the Retreat has been postponed for June 6 and 7.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for January 2008. Copy of this report is attached as Exhibit A.

Director Escudero will present his February report at the next board meeting.

MOTION #2 - 03-2008 - To approve the January Director's report and tabled the February report for the next meeting. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive - Chair Romero informed that the committee met and talked about the involvement of the board members locally in the three areas the commission will focused.

Finance

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

MOTION #3 - 03-2008 - To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Director Escudero explained the Budget Spreadsheet to the Board Members.

Commissioner Santiago reported on the DHO. The entertainment has been secured. They are waiting confirmation from the Governor's office if the Governor will be the keynote speaker. They will inform on March 31. The hotel is secured. She informed also that the letters to the honorees and the save the date letters to the legislators will be send out by the office next Monday. This is one of the issues that were going to be discussed at the retreat this weekend. She expressed that there will be ten DHO awardees and four Nuestra Familia Awards.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity - No meeting.

Director Escudero informed that they kicked-off the Grassroots Initiative this week. He is very excited about all the activity and the participation that probably will bring 50 participants statewide.

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Education - Commissioner Aviles Casey informed that they would be reviewing a proposal she has for a pilot program at Dayton Public Schools. She informed the Director has seen the proposal and the Commissioner Gonzalez has not been able to review it at this moment. She informed that at this moment, funding is not available, but they are continued to proceed to get proposals.

Chair Romero informed that NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected Officials) in June and he would like that the Director, the Finance Chair and himself can attend that conference.

Chair Romero wants that the office send a letter to C.J. Prentiss asking status about the Closing the Gap Campaign, that includes what schools are in, what percentage of the Hispanic community are on that school and what percentage of Hispanics are served.

Workforce & Economic Development - No meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Escudero reported on his participation in the National Hispanic Leadership Institute National Conference. Around twenty-six Latino Affairs Commissions participated in this conference. This year Minnesota and Ohio shared the session that covered different issues. They created a steering committee and Ohio was selected as the lead agency. A website is in progress with information about the conferences, etc. He will inform the Board when ready.

Chair Romero congratulated the Director for his participation in the conference and asked the Board for a round of applause for him. Round of applause.

Director Escudero informed that he is on conversations with the Office of Budget and Management and wants to confirm that the budget cut will be around a ten percent, \$70,000.00. He expressed also that no programs, initiatives or personnel will be cut as the commission absorbs this cut on this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero confirmed that the Board retreat was moved to June 6-7. Those two days will be exclusively devoted to work on the retreat. There will be no formal Board meeting on June 6, unless determined by the Chair or formal

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processes that exist in our rules and by-laws. He expressed that he will be working with the Chair to find a good mediator or meeting facilitator for the retreat.

Commissioner Simms-Howell wants to recognize Officer Kenneth Ramos for his fifteen years serving the Hispanic community as Community Liaison in the City of Columbus, Division of Police. Round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #4 - 03-2008 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Santiago informed that the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Lorain is April 25-26. Website for more information: ChipLorain.org

Commissioner Florez informed that on February 21st. the Hamilton County Prosecutor met with the Mexican Consulate. They outlined the new security card for Mexican citizens, documented and undocumented, that they have to complete and be registered. The Consulate representative explained the eight security measures for the card. Also explained that they created a network that police may be able to use from a squad card to verify identifications immediately. The consulate is also interested in setting up a date to encourage undocumented residents to come and registered and become documented.

Commissioner Aviles Casey informed that on February 21st. _____ of Channel 7 broadcasted a 3 to 5 minutes special on the growth of the Latino community in Dayton. He interviewed Rosa Caskey, a person from New Carlisle and herself. It has not developed in a full report recording segment yet, but he hopes he will have the approval to continue with these series of interviews.

Chair Romero reminded everybody that from September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5 - 03-2008 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

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MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 - 03-2008	To approve the February 8 minutes
Motion #2 - 03-2008	To approve January Director's report.
Motion #3 - 03-2008	To accept the Financial Report.
Motion #4 - 03-2008	To accept public commentary.
Motion #5 - 03-2008	To adjourn the meeting.