



Minutes of the October 19, 2007 business meeting at Riffe Building, Room 1932, 19th. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

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

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Guest attendance list

Attached

ABSENT

Humberto Gonzalez - Excused

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 10-2007

To approve the September 14 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

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INVITED GUESTS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero expressed that, considering the agenda for the day, he will submit a hardcopy or electronic copy to all board members and will present the report at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Simon Rodriguez informed that the committee had received a draft proposal from Strategic Government Initiatives for review and that today they received a second draft proposal that includes grant writing and grassroots programs. The committee agreed with the wording of the product and the proposal will be sent to all board members to take action at the next board meeting.

The committee also discussed the DHO (Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Recognition Gala). Commissioner Santiago informed that the event would take place on April 18, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel. Commissioner Santiago will Chair de DHO Committee like last year.

Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Porrás informed that the committee met this morning and heard a presentation by Benito Lucio from Dept. of Job and Family Services. They are going to establish of sub-group of experts in the workforce development area that will analyze the correct status of development in the State and will recommend the strategy to the committee.

In addition, he informed that they received a proposal from the Department of Development. They are setting up a Hispanic Development Corporation with the purpose of helping and initiate Hispanic businesses. Several organizations will be part of this group. The committee is considering this proposal.

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Commissioner Romero expressed that the Commission must look for an initiative to secure the appointments of Latinos for this group. They are appointed by County Commissioners.

Executive and Finance

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that due to lack of information from the State new accounting system, OAKS, there is no specific report.

MOTION #2 - 10-2007 - That on a monthly basis, the board be provided with an official or unofficial estimate report on the status of expenditures.

Presented by Commissioner Porras. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Closing the floor to nomination of officers for 2007-08

Director Escudero read from the September 14 electronic copy of the Minutes the names of the nominees:

Chair - Commissioners Gonzalez and Romero
Vice Chair - Commissioner Aviles Casey and Reyes
Secretary - Commissioner Florez

MOTION #3 - 10-2007 - To accept the nominations. Presented by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Election of Officers for 2007-08

As per individual call, the new Executive Board for 2007-08 was constituted as follow by the vote of the majority:

Chair - Richard Romero
Vice Chair - Ramona Reyes
Secretary - Michael G. Florez

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MOTION #4 - 10-2007 - To establish that the majority voted for all the positions. Presented by Commissioner Barbosa. Seconded by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Training & Grant Project Services from the OED Committee

MOTION #5 - 10-2007 - (OPEN MOTION)- That the Strategic Initiative Plan be reviewed by the Board and acted upon for a vote at the next meeting. Presented by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez.

Director Escudero made a visual presentation about the OLANet. The launching of OLANet will be on November 1, 2007. Invitations to the training sessions have been sent to organizations and community leaders.

Chair elect Richard Romero acknowledged Commissioner Gonzalez and asked for a round of applause. Round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #6 - 10-2007 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Porras announced that the Hispanic Business Association in Cleveland is having their 25th. Annual Entrepreneur Banquet on November 2nd.

Commissioner Reyes announced that the Ohio Hispanic Coalition is celebrating their 25th. anniversary gala at the Hyatt on November 2nd. and they are selling tickets for the event. She also announced that there is new Hispanic owned McDonald at Hamilton Road.

Commissioner Santiago announced that the Centro de Servicios Sociales de Lorain will celebrate their 33rd. year anniversary on November 2nd.

Chair Romero announced that on Wednesday, October 24 Lorain County will have a Diversity Expo, with various workshops and the Latino speaker will be Commissioner Dan Porras.

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Commissioner Barbosa announced that the Spanish American Committee would have their fundraising event for scholarships, the Enchilada dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Ohio State and Michigan State.

Chair Romero offered the position of Treasurer to Commissioner Blanche Aviles Casey and she accepted. Round of applause.

Commissioner Simms-Howell announced that on November 7 the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati, USA will have as guest speaker former President of Mexico, Mr. Vicente Fox.

He informed that he was the keynote speaker at Central State University. The University is making all possible efforts to increase Hispanics enrollment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7 - 10-2007

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary