



Minutes of the September 14, 2007 business meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

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

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Susan De Luca

Guest attendance list

Attached

Absent

Daniel Porras - Excused

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 - 9-2007

To approve the August 24 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

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CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Gonzalez informed that he would do his commentary in the new business section.

INVITED GUESTS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his August Director's Report. Copy of the report was distributed to all board members and was available for the public. Copy is attached as Exhibit A. Copy of proposed legislation (HB 308) is attached as Exhibit B.

MOTION #2 - 9-2007 - To approve August Director's Report. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented a Special Report to the Office of the Governor related to the Hamilton/Butler County Latino community meeting on September 1st. after the immigration raid. Copy of this report is attached as Exhibit C.

MOTION #3 - 9-2007 - To approve the Special Report to the Office of the Governor. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Director Escudero reported on a letter received from Senator Tom Niehaus in reference to the meeting in Cincinnati. He also stated that the Commission has no stand on immigration, since this is a Federal issue and the presence of the Office of Latino Affairs at the meeting was to support other Government agencies and Organizations in a humanitarian effort. Copy of this letter is attached as Exhibit D.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive and Finance

Commissioner Simms-Howell explained that the information is not available from the system to prepare the report.

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Communication

Commissioner Reyes informed that the committee is preparing a report that will be presented to the Board at the next meeting on how to get information to the general public about the Commission in different areas. Also to establish talking points to promote the Olanet to the communities. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to talk about it in the regions through newspapers or radio. She also informed that Director Escudero would ask all the Board members to submit information related to their local media.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Simon Rodriguez informed that this morning, Director Escudero, Commissioner Santiago and himself met with Richard Bitonte and from Strategic Government Planning. They are a fund raising organization.

Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee has met with various departments inside the Department of Development and talked about supporting Hispanic businesses.

Chair Gonzalez expressed that by the end of the year they will have the criteria on how the Commission will fund these projects.

Director Escudero informed that they have a couple of different criterias planning to be established: one is a generic criteria for publishing, evaluating and awarding RP's coming from the office. A separate facet, and a unique Memorandum of Understanding may come out because of the work of the Workforce and Economic Development Committee with the Department of Development, as the Commission looks to fund the SBDC It will be a two-step process.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution in Recognition of the Life Enrichment Center of Dayton

Director Escudero read the Resolution. Copy is attached to these minutes as Exhibit E.

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MOTION #4 - 9-2007 - To approve the Resolution for the Life Enrichment Center of Dayton, Ohio. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Proposal from the Organization Support Ad-Hoc Committee

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee decided to wait for the Attorney General's office position on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination of Officers for 2007-08

The following Board members were nominated:

Chair	Richard Romero Humberto Gonzalez
Vice Chair	Richard Romero Blanche Aviles Casey Ramona Reyes
Secretary	Michael G. Florez

Chair Gonzalez informed that next month these positions would be submitted for election and the 2007-08 Executive Board will be in place.

Commissioners Florez, as a matter of clarification informed that there are three officers nominated for Chair, two officers for Vice Chair (Mr. Romero declined) and one for Secretary.

Chairman Gonzalez brought to discussion the pending bill in the House of Representatives.

Director Escudero informed that the full text of the bill was brought to the attention of the Commission on Wednesday. That he will work with his staff to provide a preliminary analysis to the full board and will provide legal analysis from different policy groups, like MALDEF. He also informed that there is not a strong sense of urgency in the House of Representatives at this time for this bill. This issued will be discussed at the October 19 Board meeting.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #5 - 9-2007 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Barbosa invited everyone to the Chamber of Commerce Gala this evening at 6:00 p.m. at The Renaissance.

Commissioner Romero invited to the Diversity Conference on October 24, Business to Business Expo, co-hosted by Marcy Kaptur and Congresswoman Betty Sutton.

Commissioner Reyes invited to the presentation of Ballet Folklórico de México on September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace Theater. She informed that CAPA is offering some free tickets to low income Latino families interested in attend. Please refer to her for these tickets. She also informed that today is the launching of a new Hispanic newspaper coming to Columbus at Westland Mall and that TV Azteca is also coming to Columbus.

Commissioner Aviles Casey announced the First Annual Hispanic Educational Career Summit on Thursday, October 11.

Director Escudero announced that the next meeting will be October 19 in Cleveland.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6 - 9-2007

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Humberto Gonzalez, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary