



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Richland Retreat Minutes
February 22, 2008

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 11:19 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Jorge Chacón, Victor Chacón, Ty Córdova, Ninfa Gutierrez, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal.

Late Arrival: Félix Negrón and Rosalba Pitkin

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

III. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Portugal asked that the Department of Agriculture speaker be removed from the agenda; speaker was removed.

Commissioner Portugal made a motion to approve the revised agenda; Commissioner J. Chacón seconded the motion. A vote was called; Ayes were unanimous. **The motion carried.**

Commissioner Cordova made a motion to convene earlier if we completed the Strategic Plan before 4 PM.

IV. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Ortiz-Self shared the following:

- Everett School district very closed system
- Family and community involvement is discouraged
- New group is being formed to address this issue
- Other school districts in her area are very cooperative

Commissioner Portugal asked about the relationship between the school board and the Superintendent.

Commissioner Ortiz-Self said they shared the same mind-set.

Commissioner Portugal asked Commissioner Ortiz-Self how she saw her role as Commissioner and her involvement.

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Commissioner Ortiz-Self explained that she is building relationships and partnering with other organizations to address issues.

Commissioner J. Chacón shared the following:

- Okanogan has many issues
- Affordable housing is much needed
- Ill-treatment of injured workers by L&I
- Hiring and retention of Latinos in the school districts
- Creation of the Alliance Development Association to obtain capital to revitalize the economy of Wenatchee
- There is a future in Wenatchee despite its current bleak situation
- Mariachi Festival is in jeopardy due to funding and too much work

Commissioner Portillo Salazar shared that the Latino Community Fund would be a source for funding.

Director Iñiguez added that the WALOBO group would also be a resource for the economic development issue.

Another option per Jose Garcia Pabón is Randy Demirs from the WSU Business Development Center.

Commissioner N. Gutierrez shared the following:

- Dr. Cole's Group has yet to take action; group of parents that have been meeting during the past seven months with Dr. Cole are discouraged with his decision to discontinue meeting with them
- Housing issues; no return of deposits and discrimination; will be meeting with WA Housing Alliance staff to address these issues
- DOL issues with mistreatment by Sunnyside DOL Staff; plans on meeting with DOL Supervisor (will include the folks who've been mistreated in the meeting)

Commissioner Portugal suggested that the Commission on Human Rights and the Attorney General's office be involved in resolving these issues. He also stated that it was imperative that we all maintain self-control when addressing issues and that there be no affiliation with political groups, church, etc.

Director Iñiguez advised Commissioner Gutierrez to inform her constituencies of the process to follow when they encounter issues with DOL. He stated that it was very important to get the name of the DOL employee whom they were having the issue and in addition request the involvement of the DOL Manager.

Commissioner Portugal shared the following:

- There is a Latino Network group that works together to address issues
- Latino Legislative Day was a great project and a success

Commissioner V. Chacón shared the following:

- Local group is energizing the Latino community and business start-ups
- There will be a Cinco de Mayo art exhibit celebration at the Puente Center
- Latino Club has grown to 90 active kids
- Presented four classes on Immigration

- Will be publishing one to two articles on Latinos with UB Board
- Latino and other ethnic groups students are having issues with Walla Walla's nursing program

Commissioner T. Cordova shared the following:

- There is interest by the non-Hispanic groups to meet with Latino Leaders
- Great need regarding integration of resources such as business workshops, financial literacy events, etc
- Sits on board of and economic development group
- Korean business group in downtown Tacoma interested in having Latinos join them
- SBA Assistant Director has been invited to the WALOBO meetings; SBA website has online training in Spanish
- Organized a meeting with Senator Patty Murray and Latino Leaders

Commissioner Portillo-Salazar shared the following:

- New Bellevue Chief of Police is supportive of the immigration system; legal status is being asked
- New Bellevue School District Superintendent; no Latino Youth Conference in 2007
- Commissioner Cruz and Portillo Salazar will be addressing the Seattle School District
- Met with Bill Wegeleben, Director of Government Operations from the Governor's Office to ask about CHA; new staff and very willing to work with us

Director Iñiguez covered the Commissioners on CHA's Database features and its efficacy in carrying out their role.

Commissioner Cordova suggested that they have the option of choosing multiple selections for the "goals" and "performance activity" sections on the Commissioner's Activity Report form.

Action Item: CHA Staff will check into the cost and feasibility of this option.

V. WSU Training

Instructors were: Michael Gaffney, Associate Director, Division of Governmental Studies and Services and Christina Sanders, Research Coordinator, Division of Governmental Studies and Services.

Workshop Outline included:

- Collaborative Learning Conversation
- The Intersection of Leadership Decision Making and the Political Environment
- Discussion on Integrity and Approaches to Ethics
- Building "Visible" Integrity in the Organization
- Organizational Universe Model

A handout of the workshop was given to Commissioners for note taking. The following are some of the statements that were made:

- Perceptions are real; facts are facts
- Be proactive and deliberate in addressing perceptions

- It benefits all to pay attention to our reputations and how they play a role in our relationships
- There has been a substantial increase in alienation between people and government between 1966 and 2002 (per Alienation Index by Harris poll)
- The more contact you have with people the more they will know you; eliminates perceptions and hearsay
- Empathy (strategy for understanding the whole picture)
- Create opportunities for positive communication/relationships; this will create empathy
- One can control conduct; harder to control attitude
- Multicultural diversity is being rejected; because of the fact that we are all human beings/universal
- Ethical Component: There are people who are not maliciously motivated; they are well intended but not informed
- Familiarity and respect are the antidote
- Craft relationships that foster good deeds
- Things to do prior to start of a meeting are: ground rules, structural rules (who comes to the table, who gets to speak, etc), rules of conduct, and rules on decision making
- Tailor expectations making sure we have the capacity to fulfill the expectation
- Set of values; be more deliberate of those values and act consistently within them

Approaches to Ethics: (Might yield unpalatable results when choosing one of these)

- Deontological: formalistic, rules oriented, universal, obligatory, “Absolute good”
- Others: Pluralism, “multiple goods”, naturalistic, empirical, intuitive, universal principles, “Self-evident”, situational “Liveboat”
- Teleological: Consequentialism, results oriented, pragmatic, utilitarianism, “ends/means”, analysis

Training session ended; Commissioner Portugal made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner J. Chacón seconded the motion. Vote resulted in all “yays”; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5PM!



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Richland Retreat Minutes
February 23, 2008

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Jorge Chacón, Victor Chacón, Ty Córdova, Ninfa Gutierrez, Felix Negron, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Rosalba Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez and Alicia Luna

Facilitator for Strategic Plan: Jose Garcia Pabón

III. Omak Meeting in April

Commissioner J. Chacón shared the following regarding the Omak Meeting:

- Meeting will be held at the Omak City Hall building
- Meeting will commence at 12 noon
- Dinner will be at the local college; MECHA Fundraiser

IV. Nominations for Vice-Chair

Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that there was only one candidate for Vice Chair and asked if anyone one else was interested in the Vice Chair position.

Since there were no other candidates Commissioner Portugal made a motion to close the nomination for Vice Chair; Commissioner J. Chacón seconded the motion.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar asked if there was any discussion; no discussion. Vote was taken with all in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Cordova sole candidate for Vice Chair; Vote was taken with all in favor. Congratulations to our new Vice Chair.

Commissioner Ortiz-Self requested that the Mt. Vernon April 22-23 public meeting be changed to Everett due to the many issues in this city.

Action Item: Alicia will send the change to the Code Reviser's office.

Director Iñiguez made the following suggestion regarding Executive conference calls:

- Have all join at the beginning of the call

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The following change will be implemented as of March 19, 2009

- On the months that the Commission does not meet in person they will have a conference call
- Conference calls will be the 3rd Wednesday at 4PM
- Alicia will request 10 ports for these calls
- Commissioner Negrón will send out an email a day prior to the conference call to remind Commissioners of the call

ACTION ITEMS: Alicia will set up the calls and post conference call schedule on our website under “Meetings”.

VI. CHA Newsletter

Alicia stated that she needs assistance with articles for the CHA 1st Quarter Newsletter. Articles need to be sent by March 19, 2008. The following Commissioners will provide articles:

- Commissioner Portugal
- Commissioner Ortiz-Self
- Commissioner V. Chacón
- Commissioner J. Chacón

VII. Other Business and Action Items:

A reminder that Commissioner’s have a month after the public meeting to write a follow-up and send letter to the Governor.

Action Item: Alicia will send roster to all Commissioners so that they can update/correct contact information.

Action Item for ALL: Address all CHA Emails as follows:

- CHA FYI – for any emails that are **just** informational
- CHA Reply/Action – for any emails that require a response or action

Meeting in Ellensburg (to finalize CHA Strategic Plan) will be on March 14-15, 2008.

- March 14th – 5PM to possibly 9PM (Dinner will be catered)
- March 15th – 8AM to 4PM (Lunch will be catered)
- Commissioners Negrón and Pitkin will not be able to attend

Set up a conference call for the Education Committee as follows:

- March 6, 2008 – 12 Noon to 1PM
- Reserve 5 ports

Strategic Plan Discussion started at 9:30 AM! (Notes from this discussion will be sent at a later time)

Meeting adjourned at 4PM.