



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

“Advocating Equality and Diversity”

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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2013, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Leftbank Building, Room 209, 240 N. Broadway, Portland OR 97227

Attendance:

Chair: Andrea Cano
Vice Chair: Gil Carrasco
Commissioners: John Haroldson (phone), Lupita Maurer, Alberto Moreno, Judy Parker, Carlos Perez
Guests: Marcela Alcantar, Diversified Builders and Engineers Council (DBEC) President; Frank Garcia, Governor’s Office; Rey Goicochea, Diversity & Inclusion Intern; Clifford Walker
Staff: Lucy Baker, Administrator

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

II. Roll Call – Quorum was established.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

The election was moved to the 6:45 – 7pm slot.

MOTION (Haroldson/Perez): To approve the agenda. CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes of Notes

Chair Cano added specific names and organizations to the March 2, 2013 Minutes in Section III., page 2, 1st bullet and 5th bullet
Dr. Connie “Serra” was corrected to “Sora”.

MOTION (Perez/Maurer): To approve the notes of March 2, 2013 as amended by Chair Cano [to include specific names of organizations and people with whom she met in Hood River]. CARRIED

Approve the OCHA meeting minutes of April 30, 2013.

MOTION (Maurer/Perez): To approve the Minutes. CARRIED.

V. Chair’s Report

Chair Cano reported on three events at she attended:

- 1) Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA) met with Arturo Vargas to discuss the rising Latino electorate.
- 2) A diverse coalition of Washington and Oregon Latino contractors and builders to plan joint events for 2013-14.
- 3) Chair Cano serves on the ODOT task force that is reviewing on line information on the driver license. She assisted ODOT to craft informational pieces in Spanish about the driver license.

Chair Cano thanked the Commission for working with her as Chair for the past 2 years and read a statement of her goals during her term as Commission Chair:

“Commissioners,

This is such good news! I trust the elections will go forward and I can relinquish the post of serving as your chair for the last two years. Gratefully, I can exhale into being a commissioner for the remainder of my reappointment.

Two years ago, I promised two key goals: 1) Broaden and engage our network of relationships throughout the state of Oregon with the myriad Latino organizations, civil and government sectors, and stakeholders, and 2) Expand our scope of trust and engagement with legislators, state agency directors, staff, and cognate state boards and committees as we implemented strategies for our priorities into the 2013 Legislative Session. I believe I achieved both. As you know, my commitment as your chair was to see OCHA through the 2013 Legislative Session, and I am very confident that a lot of groundwork has been laid for the next class of OCHA leadership to build upon.

A special note of gratitude to Vice Chair Gil Carrasco for his counsel and wisdom on so many different issues and the leadership he offered while we represented OCHA on the Governor's Oregon Driver License Working Group. I also very much appreciated the contributions from Commissioners John Haroldson and Lupita Maurer as we collaborated as an Executive Committee, to Commissioners Carlos Perez and Gil Carrasco for their leadership and oversight for our interns on education and hate crime issues, to Commissioners Santiago Morales for his wisdom and work on labor issues and the Indigenous communities, Alberto Moreno on health, Judy Parker on new citizenship orientation, and new Commissioner Cynthia Gomez on leadership development and environmental justice.

OCHA also benefited from the support of key legislative leadership from Sen. Chip Shields and Rep. Chris Harker on many of the proposed legislation, especially tuition equity and the new driver's permit, for which we are all thankful.

Lastly, we could not have achieved so much without the assistance of our OACO staff Lucy Baker and Nancy Kramer, especially as we moved into the involved and timely

activities that required OCHA and OCHA response and action with the other advocacy commissions on testimonies and hearings during the 2013 Legislative Session. We also could not have had the access to the Governor's Office and with key state department officials without Frank Garcia, Jr.

Muchismas gracias a todos/as, for the opportunity to work together with such conviction, creativity, and grace. It was such an honor to serve OCHA in this capacity.”

VI. Governor's Office update:

The chair invited Frank Garcia from the Governor's Office to present. He thanked and applauded Chair Cano and the Commission for their amazing work during legislative session. He recognized the work of Chair Cano and Vice Chair Carrasco with 2 parchments of the Short Term Driver's License bill, SB 833. He looks forward to helping OCHA drive its agenda in jobs and economy, healthcare and education in partnership for the coming 2013-2015 biennium. He is looking ahead to partnership with the Commission in preparing for the next legislative session. Mr. Garcia also introduced his intern, Rey Goicochea, who will be working with his office around organizational mapping.

Chair Cano asked if there was an update on a movement to add the short term driver's license to a referendum in 2014. Mr. Garcia responded that this will be decided during the 90 days following the end of the legislative session.

The Driver's License bill itself has attracted national attention and is being used by eight states as a model for their own proposed legislation.

Vice Chair Carrasco thanked Mr. Garcia for his leadership and vision around organizing the groups that came together to support the driver's license bill.

Mr. Garcia noted that the Supreme Court will soon have a decision on Affirmative Action and Schools. Once that occurs, the Governor's office will seek the advice of the Commissions on the effect of that decision.

VII. Commissioner and Committee Reports

Vice Chair Gil Carrasco

He reported on the recent decision by the Court upholding the Governor's reprieve of a death row inmate. He is a member of Oregonians Against the Death Penalty (OADP) and looks forward to working with the Commission to support legislative change to the death penalty.

Commissioner Alberto Moreno

Commissioner Moreno was in the Capitol the week of June 17, 2013, supporting the Oregon Latino Health Coalition's bill on establishing a Commission for Traditional Health Care Workers. He is also supporting the bill that allows access to prenatal care

for all women. He thanked the Commission for their support during legislative session for a broad array of bills affecting the Latino community.

Commissioner Carlos Perez

He reported on OCHA's Public Policy Internship preparing briefing papers on education gaps in partnership with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and Portland State University. The Intern is Doctoral candidate Johanna Blackford, and is developing 5 policy briefs. The first brief is on disproportionate discipline and the second is on English Language Learners (ELL). Commissioner Perez has worked with her to prepare these briefs for OEIB and the Commission. The OEIB also has adopted an Equity Lens for use in investing in education in Oregon. Commissioner Perez testified on the Equity Lens to the OEIB during a period of invited testimony.

Commissioners Perez and Haroldson recently attended a presentation in Madras, Oregon, on the Juntos program which assists Spanish Speaking Parents and Students in becoming more involved in their children's schools. Commissioner Perez also sits on the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) Disproportionate Discipline Subcommittee that is advising ODE on ways to improve the negative effects of disproportionate discipline.

Commissioner John Haroldson

Commissioner Haroldson noted that he appreciated Commissioner Perez's report on their trip to Madras. Following the meeting there was a fair with great participation of the local Latino community. He also attended a high school graduation and the Oregon State University Latino graduation, each of which had a large turnout. It was very moving and each student included a person of their choice to walk in with them for their graduation which made it unusually significant for the families of the students. He has addressed students at McClaren and Hillcrest correctional facilities and he and his spouse are leading a community effort to support Latino leadership and micro business. John is working with US Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) in developing their regional conferences in the Pacific Northwest. He recently met with Danny Santos at Willamette University Law School and learned more about their efforts to streamline the Law program by reducing the number of years needed to achieve a Law Degree by 1 year.

Commissioner Haroldson wanted the record to show that he has not taken a position on the Death Penalty.

He also thanked Andrea and Gil for so generously contributing their time and energy for the Commission over the past 2 years as Officers of OCHA. Each of the Commissioners has been tireless in their work and support and he thanks them.

Commissioner Lupita Maurer

She reported that she was working with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and a group of Latino janitors that allege their wages are being withheld, in order to help get

the wages they are owed. She thanked Chair Cano and Vice Chair Carrasco for their dedication.

Commissioner Judy Parker

Commissioner Parker reported that she has a new position in the Mayor's office with the Office of Equity and Human Rights and is delighted to serve there. She helped organize a large forum on diversity for the City. She also attended a 150 person Cinco de Mayo naturalization ceremony for new citizens. Senator Merkley was in attendance. She has nominated Commissioner Haroldson for a special award from the Washington Latino Bar Association for his excellent attorney work. She thanked Chair Cano for her leadership.

VIII. Officer Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Cano opened the elections.

Vice Chair Carrasco thanked the Commission for their earlier nomination of himself as a Commission officer but he needed to decline due to his availability. He knows the Commission has great nominees for the post.

Votes were taken for Commissioner Moreno for Chair and he won the election unanimously.

Chair Moreno thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence in him.

Votes were taken for Commissioner Haroldson for Vice Chair. He won unanimously. Vice Chair Haroldson thanked the Commission for their vote, he is humbled to serve. He is looking forward to serving with Chair Moreno.

The new officers took their duties immediately.

Chair Moreno noted that this is a time to work with the Community and for OCHA to conduct an environmental scan and look to the future. He will set a time for Strategic Planning in the near future.

IX. Old Business:

A. Ratify e-votes for testimony submitted on behalf of OCHA

Commissioner Haroldson was concerned during the course of the legislative process regarding the protocol the OCHA used for selecting legislative bills to support. The votes moved quickly, the bills need to be attached, as do the pros and cons regarding the bills. He needed to abstain a number of times because he was not provided with the bills and the defensible positions. Commissioner Parker agrees. Chair Moreno feels that there is an opportunity to be more intentional about this process and looks forward to exploring this topic further during the OCHA's strategic planning process.

In the future, the OCHA may wish to set criteria for its legislation, such as guidelines for presenting legislation to them.

Since the last OCHA meeting there have been a number of bills the Commission has considered for support via e-vote. The following bills were approved by the OCHA using this method and were read into the public record prior to ratification:

1. *Joint Testimony from the four Advocacy Commissions:*

- a) HB 2328, Oregon Advocacy Commissions to Meet Jointly Annually
- b) HB 2611, Culturally Competent Care
- c) HB 2661A, Study on Public Safety Disparities
- d) HB 2668, Public Accommodation
- e) HB 2669, Intern Protections
- f) HB 3409A, Hair Care
- g) SB 739, ODE Consultation on Oregon History
- h) SB 755, Minority Teachers Act
- i) SB 833, Short-Term Driver License
- j) Oregon Education Investment Board Creation & Use of an Equity Lens

2. *Joint Testimony:*

- a) HJR1, Prohibit the Death Penalty (OCBA, OCHA)
- b) HB 2212, Small State Procurement Contracting (OCAPIA, OCHA)

3. *Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA):*

- a) HB 2787, Tuition Equity (Letter of support & Letter of Appreciation)
- b) HB 3407, Establish Commission on Traditional Health Care Workers
- c) SB 833, Short-Term Driver Card (OCHA Testimony & Commissioner Testimony)
- d) SB 5501, Funds the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
- e) Oregon Education Investment Board Creation and Use of an Equity Lens

MOTION (Cano/Carrasco): To ratify the e-votes of the Commission on the legislation read into the record. CARRIED with 1 abstention.

X. New Business

A. Presentation by Diversified Builders and Engineers Council (DBEC) President Marcela Alcantar

Chair Cano met Ms. Alcantar at one of the DBEC meetings and invited her to attend an OCHA meeting. Marcela Alcantar presented on DBEC's work. She is concerned that because several disparity studies conducted by ODOT are not adequately revealing the exceedingly low number of contracts awarded to Latino owned businesses and instead show only that large amounts of funding is awarded to Latino own firms (although in a small number of contracts) that Latino contractors are not being included in new diversity contracting efforts from USDOT. This will directly affect Latino contractors as the Columbia Crossing will generate opportunities for diverse contractors. It appears to her that ODOT does not have adequate or proper data and is aware of this but is continuing forward with a plan to focus on African American contractors. The results of the studies are part of a report recently issued

from ODOT. Her organization has prepared eight recommendations and responses to the ODOT report and are presenting it to the US Inspector General. In her discussions with Hispanic Contractors nationally, she finds that it is an issue everywhere. The ODOT hosts focus groups for other minority groups but not Hispanic focus groups. Commissioner Cano helped them have a meeting with the Oregon DOT Director asking for more review. Latinos are no longer considered as under-utilized.

The Commission asked Ms. Alcantar, How can the OCHA help?

The Columbia Crossing project will include multimillion dollar of contracts. If the bidding process continues to operate as it always has, Latino contractors will not be included. She would like the OCHA to write letters of support for when she meets with ODOT, asking that Latinos be included in the contractor pool for the Columbia Crossing. Vice Chair Haroldson asked Marcela to provide an overview and request. Marcela provided letters of support that others have written. The Commission is agreed on this. Chair Moreno asked the Commission then to consider what an appropriate position would be for a state Commission.

XI. Other Business

Commissioner Carrasco suggested developing an amicus brief for fair housing and asked if the OCHA might consider writing an amicus brief. Commissioner Parker will check with the Hispanic National Bar Association, which may also be interested in working jointly with OCHA on this project.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.