



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Thursday, June 3, 2010

9 AM – 4 PM

Eugene Public Library, Bascom/Tykeson Room

100 West 10th Ave

Eugene, OR 97401

ATTENDEES

Chair: Jose Ibarra
Vice Chair: Andrea Cano
Commissioners: Steven Bender, Gilbert Carrasco, Dagoberto Morales, Judith Parker, Marcela Mendoza and John Haroldson.
Speakers: Maria Cardona (teleconference from Washington DC), Clarissa Martinez de Castro (teleconference from Washington DC), Raymond Caballero (teleconference), Juan Carlos Valle (Centro Latino Americano), Linda Hamilton (United Coalition of Color), Lisa Arkin (Oregon Toxics Alliance)
Guest(s): Kitty Piercy (Mayor of Eugene), Andrea Ortiz (Eugene City Counselor), Danny Santos-Governor's Office (teleconference)
Staff: Daniel Rodriguez

I. Call to Order

Chair Ibarra called the meeting to order at 9:07AM

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ibarra introduced Juan Carlos Valle, President of the Board, Centro Latino Americano, sponsoring agency in Eugene. Juan Carlos then introduced Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene. Mayor Piercy spoke of her pride at being able to host the Hispanic Commission and indicated she would do whatever was necessary to assist the commission in any manner she could. Andrea Ortiz, Eugene City Counselor also welcomed the commission.

III. Roll call and attendance record

Chair Ibarra welcomed the two new commissioners: Judith Parker and John Haroldson

IV. Approval of April 21, 2010 meeting minutes

- 1) Revision: Correction on spelling of name of Xavier Botana and inclusion of comments from Chair Ibarra expressing his appreciation for the work of Raymond Caballero and his service to the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.
- 2) Vote: Commissioner Carrasco moved, Vice Chair Cano seconded, approved unanimously with revisions

V. Public Comments (2 minutes each)

- 1) Artemio Paz Jr. - Mr. Paz is also a member of the State Board of Education. Mr. Paz asked the commission to give greater attention to the educational needs of Latino students in Oregon and their lagging achievement gap. In addition to his prepared remarks that were distributed to the commission, he challenged the Oregon Commission to schedule a presentation to the State Board of Education.
- 2) Carol Caldwell – Ms. Caldwell expressed her feelings that misplaced fears toward the minority community is fueling many of the negative press. She thanked the commission for taking a stand and wants to see more formal actions taken against Arizona for their recent legislation.
- 3) Mark Harris - substance abuse counselor at Lane CC. He expressed a desire to have the police become better trained at both drug enforcement and substance abuse.

VI. Correspondence to OCHA

Vice Chair Cano expressed a desire to establish protocols for the commission to reply to communications from the public. How will they be answered and how will they be categorized. The commission was made aware of a form used by the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs to document complaints. Commissioner Morales expressed a desire to use such a form and label it “Comments’ rather than complaints.

VII. Report from Chair Ibarra

- 1) Chair Ibarra conducted a Power Point presentation detailing the many organizations looking to OCHA for support and guidance. A few of the many issues undertaken by OCHA include: Arizona legislation, Boycott Intolerance, Latino Students Success Program, Dream Act, Homeland Security-Secure Communities legislation. Chair Ibarra plans to propose a meeting with the State police chief to both discuss the Secure Communities Legislation and to also conduct a public hearing on the same topic. It was suggested that the media be invited to this meeting.
- 2) Vote: It was moved by Commissioner Mendoza and seconded by Commissioner Parker that Chair Ibarra set a meeting with the State Police Chief. Commissioner Carrasco will draft the invitation. Motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports from Commissioners:

- 1) Haroldson: Made reference to Western Oregon University and their highest rate of graduation of Latino students. Commissioner Haroldson wants to examine the integration between Western Oregon University and the greater Monmouth community to see if such a partnership can be replicated in other university communities.
 - a) Vote: It was moved by Commissioner Mendoza and seconded by Commissioner Parker the OCHA prepare a proclamation to Western Oregon University acknowledging their success. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Bender: Conducted two media presentations. One was a debate on the program, “Populations” where he debated the Immigration Law. Commissioner Bender indicated he will send the link to each commissioner for their viewing pleasure (<http://www.populationsprogram.com/>). The second appearance was for the U of O student cable program where he again discussed the Arizona immigration legislation. http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/secure_communities-moa/r_oregon_12-28-09.pdf
- 3) Morales: Met with officials in The Dalles. Indicated a frustration as the environment in The Dalles has not improved. Commissioner Morales is also requesting additional information on Worker’s Comp.

- a) Chair Ibarra has indicated that the officials with whom they met in The Dalles have expressed a desire for OCHA to conduct a regular meeting in their community.
- 4) Mendoza: Wants additional hearings regarding the Latino children currently on Food Stamps. She fears many of those children have gotten lost in the system and a more exhaustive examination is necessary. Commissioner Mendoza also distributed a copy of the book, *Mexicanos in Oregon* she has co-authored through the Oregon State University Press.
- 5) Cano: Desire to work on public media with respect to Hate Speech. Our society reflects itself in the words used in public discourse and that is an area in great need of repair. She is also deeply concerned with the recent statistics reflecting that 90% of Latino workers are paid less than the minimum wage. Additionally, Vice-Chair Cano wants further examination of the death and dying situation involving undocumented workers.
- 6) Carrasco: Volunteered to participate in the paper screening for the new Administrator position. He has been actively involved with the United States Council on Latino Affairs, Latino Educational Success. Additionally, meetings have been conducted with the presidents of University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Western Oregon University. Of major concern is his work leading the Driver's License legislation within the State of Oregon. On a recurring basis, Commissioner Carrasco meets with the Attorney General of Oregon to discuss issues important to OCHA.

IX. Report from OACO Staff

Daniel Rodriguez discussed the following issues surrounding the OACO office:

- 1) The current recruitment for a new Administrator has closed. There were a total of 76 applicants with 33 candidates meeting the qualifications and desired attributes. Packets of the 33 candidates will be sent to all Commission Chairs in preparation for the June 8th paper screening activity.
- 2) Final word is pending for the official approval of the OACO move to Portland State University.
- 3) A formal position description for the new Administrator has been created. This new document will clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities of the new administrator.
- 4) It is apparent that, in view of the budget reductions, fund raising must be undertaken by each commission. The breadth and depth of fund raising will be determined by each commission.
- 5) The committee structure currently being utilized by OCHA is being used as a model by other commissions.

X. Teleconference with Danny Santos

Danny indicated the major issue is the budget reduction imposed on all agencies by the Governor. The 9% reduction is currently in being undertaken across the board. There are some calls for a special session with specific reductions but at this point that is not planned. This issue will become far more contentious as the summer proceeds. Immigration reform must wait until that issue is addressed at the federal level. There are also rumors that additional stimulus money will be coming, but that again, is a wait and see situation.

XI. Teleconference with Maria Cardona from Washington DC

- 1) While there are many issues currently being addressed in Washington DC, everything is OIL at the present time. While Oil is taking up all the oxygen, the White House is having difficulty trying to maneuver to any other issue.
- 2) Immigration reform-Arizona helped place this issue on the front burner-the dilemma is to attempt a bi-partisan approach. Something must be done at the national level or face the reality that other state will repeat an Arizona legislative agenda. Votes are not there for a full reform but some form of an immigration reform bill will be introduced before the November election. The Democrats have lost dialogue with respect to the Enforcement aspect of Immigration reform

XII. Teleconference with Clarissa Martinez de Castro from Washington DC

- 1) One of the major issues with the Arizona legislation is that there is currently no federal mandate for individuals to carry papers for identification.
- 2) There are currently 16-22 states contemplating similar legislation.

XIII. Teleconference with Raymond Caballero

The major issue surrounding the Immigration Reform laws in Arizona is that the proponents of the bill have control of the media. Their three major issues are; 1) there is a major crime wave currently under way in Arizona, 2) the illegal's are responsible for the crime wave and 3) the government is doing nothing. In all three cases, the issues are wrong yet the media is not reporting the true facts.

XIV. Website Report

Chair Ibarra again expressed his desire to have a timelier update of the OCHA website.

XV. Legislative Agenda Report

- 1) Commissioner Carrasco reported the Driver's License legislation has been re-worked by legislative council and is ready for the next step in the process. Plans are still on-going to introduce this bill in both the House and the Senate.
- 2) The artist who painted the mural in the School of Social Work at PSU has expressed his desire to paint a mural of Cesar Chavez on the Portland Street named after Chavez. The muralist will apply for a grant with the City of Portland with the best site appearing to be the Fred Meyer location on Hawthorne and Cesar Chavez Blvd. Centro Latino Americano has agreed to be the non-profit fiscal agent for this grant proposal. The OACO office will seek guidance from Lora Carson, the DAS Account as to the proper disposition of the funds.
 - a) Vote: It was moved by Chair Ibarra and seconded by Commissioner Carrasco to authorize OCHA to serve as the sponsoring agency in the application for City of Portland grant funds to have a mural painted of Cesar Chavez on Cesar Chavez Blvd. The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Votes

- 1) It was moved by Commissioner Mendoza and seconded by Commissioner Morales to acknowledge former OCHA Chair Francisca Leyva-Johnson for her leadership of OCHA during difficult times. Her leadership sustained OCHA both emotionally and physically and the current commission is a testament to her resolve. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) It was moved by Commissioner Haroldson and seconded by Commissioner Carrasco to endorse the United States Hispanic Leadership conference to be held in Portland, OR on Oct 9-11, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Commission Structure

- 1) Vice Chair Cano distributed two detailed forms that will serve as the basis of both committee assignments and other assignments based on interests. Additionally, a map of Oregon was also distributed to allow commissioners to indicate what area within the state would be of interest regarding committee outreach.
- 2) Committee outreach is a priority for Vice-chair Cano.

XVIII. Commission Focus for 2010

- 1) Morales: Education the Latino community on OCHA and teach the community to become more aware of local, state and federal issues.
- 2) Bender: Criminal and Juvenile Justice
- 3) Mendoza: Criminal, Juvenile and Environmental Justice

- 4) Parker: Immigration and Education (emphasis on oral competency)
- 5) Ibarra: Propose a commission retreat so these priorities can be addressed
- 6) Cano: Create a new vocabulary to how we treat and address people.
- 7) Carrasco: Establish new relationship with new Governor, obtain support from new administration on OCHA issues and continued support for legislators who support meaningful issues
- 8) Haroldson: Be aware of our language that, at times, comes into conflict with our heritage, must address our issues with the language of our people. (Does the dominant community get to hear our language of our community)?

XIX. Commission Meeting Dates, Assignments and Issues

- 1) Next Joint Commission Meeting is July 15 in the Wayne Morris Suite
- 2) Vice-Chair Cano will email initial results of committee assignment sheets to all commissioners.
- 3) As the summer will have various commissioners out of the state at various times, Vice-Chair Cano will reach out to determine both meeting dates and agenda items for future meetings.

XX. Presentation by Juan Carlos Valle, President of the Board, Centro Latino Americano

The link to the presentation by Juan Carlos is posted on the OCHA website. The website for Centro can be located at www.centrolatinoamericano.org

XXI. Presentation by Linda Hamilton, United Coalition of Color

The Coalition was formed to address social injustices in the minority community. Issues revolve around: what can we do to limit the number of minorities in the criminal justice system and how can we address the large number of minorities in foster care.

XXII. Presentation by Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Oregon Toxics Alliance

- 1) The link to the presentation by Lisa is posted on the OCHA website. The website for Oregon Toxics is www.oregontoxics.org
- 2) Vote: The motion to support legislation by Senator Shields addressing racial impact statement for all legislation is table for further discussion.

XXIII. Adjournment at 4:07 PM