

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 31, 2008
2:00pm – 4:15pm
Conference Center Room 1, East Wing
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

11 Commissioners Present

Commissioners Not Present:

6 Commissioners Not Present

Staff Present:

None

Audience Present:

None

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Chair Alfonso Vidal called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. A quorum was established.

There are 17 Members on the Commission and 11 Members in attendance at the meeting. There needs to be 10 members in attendance for a quorum.

II. Election of Officers

Nominations present:

Chair – Alfonso Vidal

Vice-Chair – Adolfo Solis

Secretary – Marisa Aguilar

Treasurer – Pat Rios

Guadalupe Hernandez made a motion that the nominations be closed.

Federico Thon seconded the motion, motion passed.

Hernandez presented the slate of officers to the commission.

Judge Kellam-Scott made the motion to close elections.

Richard Espinosa seconded the motion, motion passed.

III. Commission Business

A. Status of the Executive Director

Alfonso Vidal started the discussion by stating that the search is still going. On February 8, 2008 in room 156 from 9am-3pm there will be interviews for the candidate. There are 6-8 candidates out of about 20 resumes.

After the interviews are made, the committee will make its recommendations, and the governor will make the final decision.

B. Issue re: Letter of Understanding (LOU) w/ USHCI

Commissioners discussed such letters at the Strategic Planning Retreat.

Rep. Mara Candelaria-Reardon made a motion to accept LOU.

Hernandez seconded the motion, motion passed.

C. USHCI Conference Scheduled Feb 14-16, 2008

ICHLA will be able to pay for at least 2 commissioners to attend the conference. The payment will include conference registration free, room rate of \$105 per day, and mileage.

D. Standing Committees

- 1. Health Committee: Chair: Vacant**
- 2. Education Committee: Chair: Marisa Aguilar**
- 3. Business-Economic Development Committee: Chair: Frances Vega (Vidal will call Vega)**
- 4. Legislative Committee: Chair: Adolfo Solis**
- 5. Civil Rights & Housing Committee: Chair: Vacant**

E. Removal of Commission “Appointees”

There was a discussion of the Bylaws state process in Article IV regarding membership, removal, and vacancy in sections 4 and 5.

The question was brought up if the commissioners should amend the bylaws to include provisions regarding removal from the commission if the attendance is

less than 75% of the scheduled meetings. Although the absences of certain commissioners do not affect the quorum, their absence shows lack of commitment. Furthermore, such absence negatively affects the morale of the commissioners who do attend scheduled meetings.

Vidal summarized the action: The commissioners agreed that the bylaws should be amended, re: section 5, so that it applies to lay members and appointments. Also, the amendment should be stricter regarding attendance.

Rep. Richard McClain made the motion to vote.

Hernandez seconded the motion, motion passed.

F. SB 3305

Vidal said this is currently in the House of Representatives and they will vote within the next two weeks. He checked with the governor's office to determine whether the ICHLA can issue a statement of opinion. The governor's office said that the ICHLA can make a statement of opinion regarding this issue.

G. Entereté Program

The subcommittee members include Risa, Virgil, and Hernandez. Vidal changed the subcommittee to make a recommendation at the next ICHLA commissioners meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2008. The subcommittee is making a recommendation regarding hiring Univision to make a video about civil rights of the immigrants as a public service announcement by the ICHLA. They listed a contact price.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.