

INDIANA COMMISSION ON HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS
Meeting Minutes
9-2-04

Present:

Cheryl Sullivan
Gregorio Chavez, Jr.
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes
Mike Draper
Sal Soto
Rep. John Aguilera
Karen Martinez
Carmen Quintana
Manuel Gonzalez
Ronnie Cantu
Juana Watson

Chair Aguilera mentioned that the minutes from the August Commission meeting would be approved at the Commission Retreat on September 25, 2004.

Hispanic Summit

Vice Chair Soto mentioned that he met with Christie Gillespie, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Community Economic Development, and they want to transfer the Hispanic Summit to someone else.

Chair Aguilera appointed Vice Chair Soto to head the committee for the Hispanic Summit.

Commissioner Watson mentioned that after some research, the Commission will not be ready to take over the summit in 2005.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that he would like to keep the Hispanic Summit on the table and work towards it even if the Commission waits a few years to take it over.

Commission Retreat

Vice Chair Soto mentioned that he submitted the budget for the Commission Board Retreat and the invitations will go out early next week.

Commissioner Chavez asked if he could bring his wife to the Board Retreat.

Chair Aguilera announced that commissioners could bring their spouses to the retreat.

Vice Chair Soto explained that a plan should be established for the retreat.

Executive Director position

Chair Aguilera announced that there are 4-5 individuals to review for the Executive Director position, and it is important to do this as soon as possible. Two names will then be sent to Governor Kernan to select. Chair Aguilera mentioned that he would help with that task.

Commissioner Watson mentioned that people are asking 2 things: is there a job description and is it necessary to relocate to Indianapolis.

Chair Aguilera answered yes to both questions.

Commissioner Watson asked if the Executive Director would be a liaison to the Governor.

Chair Aguilera said this would be reporting to the Commission.

Vice Chair Soto suggested to change the job title to Coordinator instead of Executive Director.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that he was not sure of the procedure of changing the title.

Floyd Worley of Governor Kernan's Office mentioned that the Human Resources Director in the Dept. of Workforce Development can change the title.

Annual Report

Jenny Sarabia (audience) mentioned the Annual Report had been brought up before, and that most agencies have this completed by January.

Chair Aguilera suggested waiting and giving the report to the new Executive Director. Also he suggested that it be put on the agenda for the October meeting. Chair Aguilera discussed the impact of health issues on minority populations. He mentioned that he attended a health disparities conference in Boston. Minority communities have not participated in drug studies.

Chair Aguilera distributed a handout from NALEO Educational Fund (naleo.org). The handout is mainly for Juana Watson in dealing with immigration issues. Chair Aguilera mentioned that he is working with Ana Sol Gutierrez from Maryland about issues and undocumented immigrants.

Commissioner Watson said that people with a Mexican drivers license can drive in the United States for 1 year and can get insurance.

Dan Henkel, Executive Director of the Communications Department of the BMV stated that the BMV wants to move ahead on the drivers license issue. The BMV is also checking on predatory issues with car dealers.

Legislation Possibilities

Chair Aguilera informed the Commission that there are 7 targeted states to move legislation to close achievement gaps among Hispanic/Latino students. He will be working to move this legislation in Indiana.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned some Economic Development issues:

- Creating a mechanism to increase bonding capabilities of minority contractors
- Technology infrastructure for small businesses

Budget

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes reported that there is still \$80,000 from last year's allocation.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if the Commission was in danger of losing the funds if they are not spent and should the Commission use the retreat to strategize programs to be a part of.

Chair Aguilera mentioned that is the reason for backing the Summit. Commissioners Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes, Juana Watson, Rep. John Aguilera, and Manuel Gonzalez will be the Executive Director task force.

Floyd Worley mentioned that the position has been posted on the Job Bank. He also informed commissioners that he would email information on the procedure of finding an Executive Director.

Public Question/Answer

Dan Henkel announced that Jenny Sarabia would consult the BMV in the upcoming months. She will consult on cultural awareness and sensitivity training.

Jenny Sarabia thanked the commission and informed everyone that she will volunteer with the Subcommittees.