



STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA COMMISSION ON
HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS
Mitchell E Daniels, Jr., Governor

ICHLA

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 28th, 2009
3:00pm – 4:30pm
Conference Center Room 12
Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis, IN**

Commissioners Present:

Rep. Rich McClain
Lisa Kusiak, House Lay Member, Muenster
Freddie Thon, House Lay Member, South Bend
Angel Rivera, Senate Lay Member, Indianapolis (Vice Chairman)
Richard Espinosa, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne
Christian Gallo, Senate Lay Member, Lafayette (Secretary)
Guadalupe 'Herb' Hernandez, Senate Lay Member, Fort Wayne (Chairman)
Alfredo Gonzalez, Governor Appointee
Andrea Bueno, Designee, Lt. Governor's Office
Tina Little, Designee, Department of Corrections (Treasurer)
Janie Duke, Designee, Department of Education
Tony Kirkland, Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission
Michelle Stein-Ordonez, Designee, Family and Social Services Agency
Brenda Summers, Proxy, Department of Workforce Development

Commissioners Not Present:

Rep. Mara Candelaria-Reardon
Senator Frank Mrvan
Senator Carlin Yoder
Teddy Flores, House Lay Member, East Chicago
Pat Rios, House Lay Member, Indianapolis

Visitors Present:

Lorraine Guillen, Business Development Manager of Jan-Pro
Roberto Castaneda, President of Jan-Pro
Lisette Guillen, Managing Editor of The Times

Staff Present:

Pat Sanchez, Executive Director
Judy York, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order:

Acting Vice-Chairman Richard Espinosa called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Quorum was established by the attendance of 14 voting members and one proxy.

Hernandez made a privileged motion since there was a quorum, elections should be moved to the first part of business in case commissioners needed to leave early. Hernandez asked that a count of the vote on the motion to hold elections be made to ensure there are 11 affirmative votes. Motion was seconded by Gallo. 13 affirmative votes and one abstention were made and the motion carried.

II. Old Business:

Election of Officers

Thon questioned the validity of voting while visitors were present. Sanchez acknowledged that the meeting is a public forum and visitors can be present. Thon changed his abstention to the affirmative and the vote on the motion to hold elections was changed to unanimous.

Espinosa called for nominations from the floor for the position of chairman. Gallo made a motion to nominate Herb Hernandez. Rivera seconded the motion. Espinosa asked for other nominations. No other nominations were made and Kirkland moved for the nominations to be closed. Rivera seconded the motion. By a show of hands, there was 14 affirmative votes for Hernandez as Commission chairman.

Chairman Hernandez thanked the group for their support and called for nominations for the office of vice president. Thon nominated Angel Rivera. Gallo nominated Richard Espinosa. Hernandez asked for any other nominations. No other nominations were made and Hernandez asked for a second on the nominations. Gallo seconded.

Kirkland made a point of order that the nominee motion cannot be for both candidates. Kirkland seconded on Rivera's nomination. Kusiak seconded for Espinosa's nomination.

Hernandez called for any other nominations for the office of vice president. Kirkland moved to close the nominations. McClain seconded.

Hernandez asked for discussion. No discussion was initiated and Hernandez explained that he would ask for a separate vote for the two nominees for vice-chair: Espinosa and Rivera. Hernandez reminded the members that a nominee needed 11 votes to qualify for the position.

Hernandez asked for a show of hands for Rivera. The count was 10 affirmative votes for Rivera. Espinosa declined the nomination of vice president so that "new blood" could take over. Stein-Ordonez complemented Espinosa for his action. A second hand count for Rivera as vice president resulted in 14 affirmative votes.

Hernandez asked for nominations for Secretary. Bueno nominated Christian Gallo. Thon nominated Kusiak; however Kusiak declined. Kirkland moved that the

nominations be closed and Espinosa seconded. Hernandez called for a vote on Gallo's nomination for secretary. The vote was unanimous with 14 affirmative votes.

Hernandez asked for nominations for the position of treasurer. Thon stated that someone with financial background should be the nominee. Hernandez stated that Tina Little held the job in prior years and also has an extensive financial background. Thon nominated Tina Little and Stein-Ordonez seconded Little as treasurer. Kirkland moved to close the nominations. Espinosa seconded. The vote was unanimous. Hernandez expressed his gratitude that the election had been completed according to code and the attorney general's opinion.

Kirkland called a point of privilege to acknowledge visitors from Northwest Indiana. Lorraine Guillen, managing editor of The Times newspaper; Lisette Guillen, business development for The Times; and Roberto Castaneda, president of Jan-Pro introduced themselves.

Hernandez thanked the visitors for attending the meeting and encouraged them to bring any issues to the Commission. He added that they should notify the Commission in advance and the issue would be included under new business.

III. Approval of Minutes April 09

Hernandez asked for approval of the April minutes. Gallo noted a correction to be made on page 5 of the minutes. The roll call vote indicated that he voted affirmative for a moratorium on travel. It should have been "nay".

Thon made a motion to accept the April 30, 2009 minutes with a correction submitted by Gallo. There was no further discussion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

IV. Reports: Executive Director's Report/Budget Report

Sanchez discussed the budget first. She urged each Commissioner to submit any expenses to her no later than Monday, June 1, 2009, due to the fiscal year deadline. Sanchez reviewed April's budget. The current amount remaining in the budget is \$41,888.18 and this amount needs to be appropriated before the next fiscal year. Thon asked how we decide on approval to spend? Sanchez replied that the board decides. Thon mentioned that someone at the Minority Health Coalition board said that money was promised to them. Sanchez stated that she met with them but expressed to them to present a written proposal to the board for consideration. As of today, we have not received a proposal.

Hernandez explained that guidelines have been made by the executive team. Due to the time constraint, the board would use its best judgment in the allocation of funds.

Discussion was held regarding handling applications for funding, whether the budget will change due to the state's economic situation, and how to handle funding distribution.

Bueno made a motion of privilege and asked if she could make a motion for discussion on how to allot the \$41,000 plus so things could move forward. Kusiak seconded.

A point of order was raised by Sanchez to clarify whether Bueno was asking that the agenda under old business regarding conferences/events/sponsorships be moved up in order to address the funding issue. Bueno answered yes. Hernandez stated that the motion of privilege was made by Bueno and seconded by Kusiak. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion carried by 13 affirmative votes.

V. Old Business:
Conferences/Events/Sponsorships

Sanchez referred the members to the sponsorship document in their packets. Hernandez suggested that members take 15 minutes to review the document so that the items would not have to be reviewed one at a time.

Gallo noted that he just received a request for funding from people at Ivy Tech. Hernandez suggested that they submit highlights and make it part of the record.

Chairman Hernandez asked the Commissioners for the names of organizations to consider for sponsorship. The following organizations were selected from the sponsorship document: LEAP of Noble County, Project Stepping Stone, Minority Health Fair, Latino Institute, the Puerto Rican parade and pageant, and the Medical Interpreters conference.

Kirkland noted that, as Executive Vice Chair of Indiana Black Expo and State Chair of Indiana Minority Health Coalition, if a vote takes place, he will recuse himself from the vote.

Hernandez asked for someone to make a motion as to the procedure for organization voting. Bueno made a motion that when a Commissioner supports an organization, he or she should include the amount of funding. Kirkland seconded. The vote was 12 affirmative and 1 abstention. The motion carried.

Gallo presented a letter from Ivy Tech in Lafayette requesting funding for 20 books; assistance for exams cost; and for tuition because some students have trouble paying for the certification exam. A dollar amount was not given. Sanchez stated that it would be a good project; however, there has to be more research into granting funds to Ivy Tech since it is a state agency.

Hernandez asked for motions for a specific organization along with a dollar amount.

Perez made a motion to support Black and Minority Health in an amount of \$6,000. The participation will make the public more aware of ICHLA.

Rivera asked about the \$1,000 for a bus in conjunction with the Minority Health fair. Perez explained that the Commission can designate how the money is to be used. In the case of the Minority Health Fair, \$1,000 of the \$6,000 is to be used for a bus. If Commissioners are not available to staff the booth at the Minority Health Fair, the booth or table can be donated to another organization. Hernandez stated the motion was made by Perez and second by Espinosa. All were in favor and the motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Bueno made a motion to sponsor Leap of Noble County for \$5,000. It was seconded by Kirkland. All were in favor and the motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Kusiak motioned to sponsor the Puerto Rican Parade for \$700 for the table and event. Thon seconded. Motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Kirkland made a motion to fund Project Stepping Stone at \$3,000. Rivera seconded. The amount to be allocated to Project Stepping Stone was discussed by Kirkland and Bueno. Bueno suggested \$5,000. Hernandez asked for a motion to amend the funding of Project Stepping Stone to \$5,000. Kirkland made the motion and Bueno seconded. Motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Rivera motioned to fund the Medical Interpreter conference for \$2,000. Discussion about the amount to be funded was discussed by Thon and Kusiak. With no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to fund the St. Vincent's Access to Health Medical Interpreter conference for 40 people to attend the conference. The motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Bueno made a motion to sponsor Eiteljorg's Los Pasada for \$3,000. Kirkland seconded it. All were in favor and the motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Perez moved to fund Latino Coalition for Domestic & Sexual Violence Conference in the amount of \$1,000. Discussion was held. The motion was seconded to appropriate \$1,000 for Latino Coalition. All were in favor; motion carried.

Discussion was held by Rivera and Kusiak on holding money for advertising for the year that would be used for marketing. Hernandez indicated that the line items cover that.

Espinosa called for funding META for \$1,000. Bueno made a motion to fund META for \$1,000 and it was seconded by Thon. No further discussion and all were in favor. The motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Hernandez suggested Latino Women in Change. A discussion ensued by Sanchez, Thon, Bueno, and Rivera. Thon made a motion to fund Women in Change as an exhibitor at \$150. Kirkland seconded. There was no other discussion and the motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Thon asked about Indiana Latino Institute and the cost of sponsoring one student. After discussion with Hernandez and Sanchez, a formula was used to derive a cost per student. Thon made a motion to fund Indiana Latino Institute for \$1,500 for three students. Motion was seconded by Kirkland. There was no further discussion and motion was carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Stein Ordonez motioned to fund Los Salseros del Barrios through Washington Community Schools at \$2,500 each year for two years with the stipulation that they give feedback on how to bring the program to other schools in the Greater Indianapolis area. Espinosa seconded. All in favor with no discussion and motion carried with 13 affirmative votes.

Rivera asked, if it wasn't too late, to include a motion for funding of La Plaza Fiesta, Indianapolis, in the amount of \$5,000. Motion was seconded with no further discussion and motion passed with 13 affirmative votes.

Sanchez asked the Commissioners for support in the amount of \$1,900 to attend the NALEO conference held in California in June. The Governor's office has already granted approval and it goes to Department of Workforce Development for the second round approval.

Hernandez asked for a motion to request funds for \$1,900 or less today for Sanchez to attend the NALEO conference. Kirkland made the motion and Espinosa seconded.

Discussion was held. Hernandez asked for a show of hands regarding the motion. Nine votes were affirmative, three voted "nay" and one voted in abstention. The motion did not carry.

Hernandez expressed his appreciation to the Commission for getting through the organization funding and added that any other items will need to be tabled until the June meeting.

Hernandez asked for a motion to adjourn. Rivera made the motion and Thon seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.