

Chicano Latino Affairs Council
Board meeting minutes
November 18, 2006

Present

Board members: Lalo Zavala, Sonia Hohnadel, Elia Bruggeman, Dr. Lou Gonzales, Edgardo Rodriguez, Teresa Dawson and Adriana O'Meara

State Legislature members: Al Juhnke

CLAC Staff: Rogelio Muñoz, Marlene Aguayo, Gladys Rodriguez

Community Members: None

Absent

Board members: Omar Salas, Maricruz Hill, and Juan Lazo

Meeting

Board Chair Lalo Zavala called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Chair Zavala asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Edgardo Rodriguez and seconded by Teresa Dawson, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Zavala asked for a motion to approve the board meeting minutes for the Oct. 21, meeting. Hohnadel asked for a correction to the minutes noting the CLAC Executive Director's name is Rogelio Munoz and not Rogelio Martinez. Board member Dr. Lou Gonzales asked that his name be corrected from Gonzalez to Gonzales. A motion was made by Teresa Dawson and seconded by Dr. Lou Gonzales. The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes with proposed changes.

Board Chair Report

Adriana O'Meara arrives at 10:15 AM.

Chair Zavala asked for a round of introductions from Board members.

Chair Zavala began his report by sharing information on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) event at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus. He also shared information regarding the partnership formed between the CHCI and General Mills. The program known as the CHCI-Cheerios Healthy Hearts Initiative has donated \$300,000 for scholarships for Latino students.

Chair Zavala shared comments on his recent trip to San Antonio to attend the 20th Annual Conference for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Zavala mentions the wealth of resources and information the conference had on education, more specifically on higher education. Executive Director Rogelio Munoz comments on some of the information he gathered and offers to share the information with the newly formed Education Committee.

Chair Zavala then reported on the 2006 Latino Education Luncheon sponsored by CLAC and the Center for Rural Policy and Development. The event presented the findings of the study completed regarding Latino students in Minnesota public schools. Zavala mentioned that the luncheon had a good turnout with about 40 people in attendance. Chair Zavala posed the question to the Board as to what the Council should be doing with the information gathered in the report?

The Board then discussed Latino students' accessibility and qualifications for scholarships. The Board also discussed how to promote targeting local Latino students from Minnesota instead of international students. The board posed the question of how CLAC can help inform students on scholarships. Munoz informed the board that he was working on a Latino Scholarship link on the CLAC website and seeking permission from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities to utilize their link for scholarships.

Executive Director Report

See attached report - Executive Director's Report, November 18, 2006.

Items discussed were the director's outreach with Agriculture, Higher Education, K-12 Education, Budget, Media, general Outreach, and other Business. The ED addressed the issue to help strengthen credibility in the Department of Agriculture among Latino farm workers and that CLAC can help play a role in this. (The management analyst position could help assist in this initiative.)

The ED then expanded on the CHCI Student Leadership Seminar at the University of Minnesota. He shared that CHCI Chairwoman U.S. Rep. Grace Flores Napolitano would like CLAC to help CHCI continue outreach efforts in the Upper-Midwest. The ED also reported on his recent trip to San Antonio to attend the 20th Annual Conference for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Munoz informed the board on some of the sessions he attended and that he would direct all information regarding education initiatives to the Education Committee. Continuing with education, Munoz addressed the success of the 2006 Latino Education Luncheon at Boca Chica which had some 40 attendees from the community. The luncheon featured Munoz and Dr. Jack Geller, President of the Center for Rural Policy and Development, on the status of Latino students in Minnesota public schools. Lastly, Munoz informed the board of his next speaking engagement at Melrose High School in Melrose, Minnesota. Munoz was invited on behalf of administration to speak and engage discussion with Latino students on the importance to graduate from high school and attend college.

Munoz also reported on the completion and submission of the 2004-2006 Biennial Report to the Governor's office and State Legislature. The ED also share that he continues to work with the Department of Finance in presenting a clear record of the Council's budget.

The ED reported that Eloisa Echavez had interviewed him for the "En Familia" television program. The ED was given the opportunity to share information about

CLAC, its history, initiatives, and objectives for the next year. Also, the ED shared with the board of his intentions to join and provide support to the University of Minnesota Northside Partnership in conjunction with the Council of Black Minnesotans. The partnership is a collaborative to enhance the quality of life in North Minneapolis; it will focus on health, education, and economic development opportunities.

The ED shared his intentions to work with the Northwest Area Foundation on the “image” improvement and empowerment of Latinos in Minnesota.

Lastly, Munoz reported he met with State Senator-elect Patricia Torres Ray at the State Capitol to discuss future collaborations on Latino public affairs.

Sonia Hohnadel suggests that CLAC send out congratulatory notes to the newly elected Latino officials that CLAC members are aware of.

Treasurer’s Report

CLAC Treasurer Edgardo Rodriguez along with input from the Executive Director reviewed the financial statements presented to the Board.

Two pages were reviewed. One page was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 and the second page was for the current year (06-07) with expenses reported through the end of October.

Board members discussed line items, recognizing a substantial carry over in the salary line item due to positions that were vacant for a period of time.

Rodriguez and Munoz explained that the reports are generated by the state accounting person appointed to CLAC and that they have received on how to interpret the report. The statements did have “notes” in reference to line item totals, but Board members would like to see a more detailed budget narrative if possible.

In reviewing the 2007 budget the Board discussed the excess amount carried over from the 05-06 budget. The group also discussed the availability of a gift amount still available to CLAC.

Some Board members suggested separating the 05-06 carry over funds from the current fiscal budget. Other Board members thought the amounts could be included in the current budget. Hohnadel asked if there could be a column that specifically states the year-to-date amount not spent and suggested that line items be reviewed with those line items in the previous year that reported negative balances, be increased to reflect the inflation costs. Board members discussed that the budget from the state had not increased monies to CLAC in several years. Increasing the line items would present a current picture of what is actually being spent. The Board then discussed the possibilities of developing a plan to spend the excess and agreed that further discussion at the retreat would allow the group to develop goals and programs CLAC should pursue, including costs. Directors who are the heads of CLAC committees shared that the committees will

need money to achieve goals that will be placed before them. A three-year plan on spending the excess money was suggested. The Board also questioned whether statutes prohibit CLAC from fund raising, and if there is a limit as to what may be carried over?

Sonia Hohnadel moved to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Elia Bruggeman, the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Board then discussed the newly formed committees. Board Chair Zavala led a discussion, questioning the formation and structuring of the committee. Board members then identified key people to bring to the committee and shared the names of interested persons willing to serve on the committee.

Possible issues to be discussed by the education committee that were suggested by Board members were:

- Identifying monies and the use of funds intended for Latino and other students of color.
- Educating school districts, specifically administrators, about the needs of Latino students and asking them to fund programs to address their needs.
- Invite people who have vested interest in the education of Latinos
- How can CLAC partner with and utilize corporations?

Lou Gonzales shared information about a scholarship program he was involved with and ideas about other promising programs he is familiar with that produce success for Latino students. He mentioned partnering with business and corporations that provide internships and scholarships.

Board members discussed that the issues currently facing Latino students need to be addressed now. Suggestions to include lawmakers, public officials and administrators, along with corporate leaders were felt to be important by some Board members.

Board Chair Zavala and Gonzales agreed to set up a meeting to discuss the formation of the committee and set up a plan to bring to the Board. Bruggeman was asked to attend along with CLAC ED. Munoz offered to secure a location for the meeting. December 11 at 2:00 PM was suggested for the date of the meeting.

Board member Representative Al Junke posed the question about partnering with the Minnesota Department of Education? Should they be approached?

Zavala then gave the Board an update regarding the recent Executive committee meeting informing them that the committee would be evaluating and submitting an evaluation of the Executive Director.

Board member Bruggeman left meeting at 11:55 AM.

Zavala also reported that Board the committee discussed Board travel and agreed to allow only for Board travel for Board meetings and business, and assigned committee meetings. Permission for any other travel will have to be submitted to the Board.

Zavala reported the Executive Committee also discussed personnel issues and vacated staff positions. The Committee discussed the job duties of the approved Program Analyst position and agreed to revisit this topic after the Board retreat.

Zavala then shared that in planning the Board Retreat for January 20th, it had been suggested that the group would meet the evening before (Jan. 19th) for supper as an informal gathering to prepare for the following day. He further shared that his expectations for discussion at the retreat would include:

- Discussing the issues and strategies to address the issues for the next biennium
- One of the main issues to discuss is education and what CLAC can do with the information of the Center For Rural Policy's report.

Zavala asked the Board as to their wishes in how the Retreat would be facilitated. Members of the Board stated that they would prefer someone qualified and experienced and that the ED should receive proposals and bids from a number of people who could facilitate. Two Board members offered suggestions. Zavala asked the ED to get back to him with suggested facilitators.

Zavala then suggested that the Board review at the retreat what it would like to see done with the Biennial report. He stated he would like to see what key issues are identified for CLAC to address and that the Board should figure out what it can and cannot do to address the issues and who's responsibility is it to address? He suggested an evaluation of some kind to determine what needs to be changed or enhanced within the structure and responsibilities of the Council.

Members of the Community Relations stated that they have not yet met. They reported that Maricruz Hill, Committee Chair, was currently on vacation, but that they will set a meeting upon her return. Adriana O'Meara committee member stated that one thing the committee is aware of is that there will need to be a budget to address the issue of marketing CLAC and for a campaign to change the image of Latinos in Minnesota. She suggested maybe marketing the Biennium Report.

Gonzales comments on the wonderful presentation of the Biennium Report makes motion to approve the report. O'Meara seconds the motion and the motion carries unanimously. Rodriguez made additional comments commending the staff that worked on the report for a job well done.

The Board Chair moved forward on the agenda to discuss new issues and led the Board in a discussion regarding the Governor's initiative for uninsured children. Board members discussed the issue of healthcare for children of undocumented parents and that of undocumented children. The Board contemplated their role in the advisement to the Governor regarding this issue and felt that more information was needed as to the

specifics of his plan. O'Meara brought forth the question if health committee was needed or if there is already a community group working on this issue that CLAC could partner with to educate the Latino community and advise government officials?

The Board wanted the issue Conveyed that this is not an "illegal" issue but it is s a health issue that affects the whole community. Public Health coverage of undocumented citizens was also discussed. Board members questioned CLAC's role and impact on the issue and felt a need to help promote the necessity for health insurance for Latinos and other minorities. Board members also inquired as to what could be the approach with the Governor's office and the timing is important. The Board also discussed aligning with other minority groups on the issue of healthcare as many are affected.

The Board then turned the discussion to the Dream Act and Education and decided that this discussion would be tabled for a later date.

Zavala suggested the possibility of a survey or evaluation as to what direction the Board should take in covering the most important issues facing Minnesotanos. He stated this would certainly be covered at the Board Retreat.

Without any further discussion the ED thanked the Board their participation and attendance.

Gonzales motioned to adjourn the meeting, O'Meara seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Sonia Mayo Hohnadel, CLAC Board Secretary