



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

CLAC 2nd Quarter Meeting Minutes
Location: 60 Empire Dr. St. Paul, MN 55103
Date: 11/15/2008
Time: 10:00am-1:30pm

In attendance

Council Members: Rep. Al Juhnke, Mario Vargas, Edgardo Rodriguez Teresa Dawson, Sonia Hohnadel, Antonio Lizano, Alma Garay-Lehn, Michael Rosario, Elia Bruggeman

Absent: Adriana O'Meara, Nicholas Juarez, Maricruz Hill, Rep. Augustine Dominguez, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Sen. Joe Gimse

Staff: Rogelio Munoz, Rosa Tock, Oscar Echandi, Sylvia Gonzalez Castro

Meeting convenes at 10:00am

Call to order and agenda consensus: Meeting called to order by Chair Elia Bruggeman. Member Antonio Lizano seconded the order. Member Sonia Hohnadel made the motion to approve. Voting Record reflects unanimous agreement - *All in favor*.

Aug/Sep meeting minutes: Member Sonia Hohnadel reviewed September minutes. Member Mario Vargas reviewed Strategic Planning meeting. Member Sonia Hohnadel reviewed office meeting minutes for approval. August 16th meeting motion made that Member Sonia Hohnadel did not record on page 6. There needs to be more explanation of what the motion was, because was not recorded in Member Sonia Hohnadel's personal notes. We will strike the motion that was in parenthesis. Motion passed to approve the August and September meeting minute's ratification.

Legislative Agenda Review/Update: Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz provided a review of the issue briefs and its changes. Modifications made in language with higher education bill (use word flat-rate, not in-state, nor Dream Act language). In Higher Education bill, Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz suggested to remove English acquisition program. He felt it was too redundant and does not fit in higher education bill. Member Edgardo Rodriguez says that briefs bullet points not consistent with Legislative recommendations. Representative Al Juhnke recommends to add some kind of language, such as: "...and will expand talented workforce" to higher education brief. Member Edgardo Rodriguez does not like "grants" language in economic development section of Legislative Agenda, CLAC is not ready to do that, does not work in that area. Member

Antonio Lizano suggests to change grant language to: “support Latina/o small business development” He will write up some comments for Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz to look at. Member Edgardo Rodriguez comments that changes of briefs aren’t made with board recommendations.

Changes to Pre-K 12 Education: Legislative Director Rosa Tock explains the changes in the Pre K thru 12 brief: last bullet point was changed (proficiency in English). Title was also changed. Member Rodriguez wants to take line out “Governor Pawlenty vetoed x bill”. He believes it be too direct. Member Sonia Hohnadel suggests keeping the veto language, because then it would read as it passed. Representative Al Juhnke suggests that veto language be moved to the last sentences. Typo: change “K” to Pre-K 12.

Representative Al Juhnke also suggests that we update factual data in the Pre-K 12 issue brief. Information can be found in the Minnesota Department of Education website.

Issue Brief in higher education: Presented by Legislative Director Rosa Tock. She consolidated Brief into one single page. Staff consulted with other states that passed in-state tuition bill. Open to questions: Member Sonia Hohnadel says that retention and graduation with diplomas and degrees is not happening. She adds that efforts have been successful in getting them in but they are not graduating and they end up leaving. That’s why degree granting is so important. Need to find out what programs are there to make sure students get their degrees (extra tutoring, extra mentoring, and support programs).

Members Alma Garay Lehn and Elia Bruggeman agree that counselors and teachers need to be trained to work with Latino students. Parents also need to be very active in the education process. Member Teresa Dawson shared with the council members that percentage of minority students in her school is 10 times higher than all of Duluth because of their higher socioeconomic status. She would like for the linkage between race and socioeconomic status to be reflected in the Briefs. Representative Al Juhnke recommends adding University of Minnesota to the document, next to paragraph with MNSCU. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz comments that a University of Minnesota Regent says there’s not a lot of energy to institutionalize a flat-rate. Member Elia Bruggeman volunteered to draft a formal letter to University and MNSCU folk.

Representative Al Juhnke emphasizes that a diverse group of immigrants are affected by this issue and suggests asking the other Councils to be part of the Brief. Member Mario Vargas wants to know what kind of information is talked about at one-on-one meetings. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz says they go with concise talking points and prepare with other stake holders before going to events. Member Mario Vargas also comments that CLAC needs to build their power with different stake holders and institutionalize a way for board to influence those important meetings.

Member Mario Vargas made a motion to pass with changes stated above, Member Edgardo Rodriguez seconded. All in favor.

BREAK 11:10AM

RESUME 11: 25

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Member Edgardo Rodriguez. In 2008, newest expenditure to pay for intern. In 2009, some expenses were duplicated. Today he is not presenting those duplicates. Member Edgardo Rodriguez and Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz will get together to figure out next year's strategy, budget might be cut 5% or even 10%, need to tap into special funds for next year's cushion. Member Teresa Dawson asked if the two grants in the report are for something in particular. The health grant is for an intern. The Minneapolis Foundation grant is for intern and the printing of the CLAC Health Report. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz commented that CLAC can raise money, and will probably have to for next fiscal year, because government money may be cut. Member Mario Vargas asked if Councils will be consolidated. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz stated that no, there is no action to combine councils, just that an every other 2 years there is activity on the issue but it doesn't go far. Rep. Al Juhnke suggests meeting with Department of Finance, Phyllis Kahn, the fiscal chair of senate and house, etc. soon so CLAC is on their radar screen. Bring a treasurer or board member of significance to meeting.

Director's Report: September and October report by Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz. He has been busy with replacing Administrative Assistant Gladys and finding an intern. He has made connections with different representatives, legislators, in order to build impact on issue briefs. He has been working with Governor's Office of Illinois in a working group called "ethnic heritage and new Americans". The Census 2010 is another new project. There will be meeting with Kansas City census next Monday, with Community Liaison Oscar Echandi as the head leader on that with Member Mario Vargas.

30th Anniversary Report: Presented by Executive Director Rogelio Munoz. Member Edgardo Rodriguez says CLAC should talk about lessons learned. Were there any important people that were supposed to be there not there? Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz stated huge presence of Greater Minnesota, but always room for great improvement. Member Mario Vargas states that need to be mindful that CLAC is a state entity, and need to be careful about who they endorse (aka Walker Art Center at Anniversary event). Member Edgardo Rodriguez asked if biennium report will be done on November 15th. Chair Elia Bruggeman and Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz say no, but will be done soon. Also suggested that CLAC collaborate with or have CLUES and La Clinica endorse CLAC's Health Report. Member Mario Vargas says CLAC needs to have a working relationship with the media and press. He suggests board be visible in the press, too. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz recaps the financials of the Anniversary Dinner. Raised \$13,000 sponsorships, \$14,500 registrations. Biggest expense was the Crown Plaza with dinner. Total expenses \$53,000. Thank you cards were sent out to business partners, sponsors, attendees. Member Antonio Lizano is looking to expand Latino archives. Rep. Al Juhnke suggests sending copy of CD to MN Historical Society and other curators. Member Elia Bruggeman also states that should be part of school curriculums and should approach Mexican Consulate. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz expressed sincere apologies to Member Teresa Dawson and her table arrangement at the anniversary event and thanked Member Dawson for her commitment

and dedication to the council and representing the 8th Congressional District of Minnesota.

Update 08-09 Biennium calendar & Action Plan: CLAC staff will focus on setting up meetings with legislators for the 2009 Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol on January 21st. They have a Plan for 150 people to attend. They are utilizing collaborations with other organizations to contribute to event planning and day participation. Member Sonia Hohnadel suggests that program be divided up, different people to go different rooms, disperse throughout the capitol. Also, there needs to be some type of a training prior to event in order for Day to be effective in the morning timeframe. Have people sign up on the day of where they would like to go. If people are scheduled a week before, plan may disintegrate. Member Mario Vargas states that board should be leading those trainings; need to be more active in preparation and day of event. Member Antonio Lizano suggests board create a working calendar. Representative Al Juhnke recommends to CLAC train some people in a week before and also train in on the day of the event as well. Member Edgardo Rodriguez is skeptical about so many voices coming in, they each have their own agenda, may not reflect CLAC. Member Mario Vargas comments back and says CLAC needs to organize and train people in their talking points and personalize it with their own stories. Member Sonia Hohnadel appointed to event program committee by Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz. Member Antonio Lizano appointed to Day at the Capitol Public Relations committee. Member Edgardo Rodriguez also states that there is not a lot of time, especially with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming in. Member Sonia Hohnadel reminds everybody to bring their own business card, grab a big stack (Member Mario Vargas needs CLAC business card)!

New Business: Representative Al Juhnke confused by website, can't find board members on front page, nor could he find the board meeting time. Member Mario Vargas comments on note-taking process. He recommends taping minutes and for CLAC to use both written and oral note-taking. Executive Director Rogelio Muñoz will set recording capabilities up for our next meeting. Member Sonia Hohnadel comments that note-taking should not be "he said, she said", but should be a general paraphrasing of the conversations. Member Alma Garay-Lehn and other board members interested in seeing Anniversary Dinner pictures.

Director's Evaluation Report 12:30pm.

Written by Sylvia Gonzalez Castro, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by Rogelio Munoz, Jr., Executive Director

Submitted by Mario Vargas, Council Secretary