



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

Chicano Latino Affairs Council
4th Quarter Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2011

Board Members: BM Mario Vargas, Chairman; BM Rebeca Sedarski, Secretary; BM Gerardo Bonilla, Vice-Chairman; BM Margaret Villanueva; BM Luisa Pierce Gutierrez; BM Maricruz Hill; Via Conference Call BM Jesus Villaseñor and BM Adriana O'Meara, Treasurer.

Staff: Hector Garcia, Gladys Rodriguez, Astrid Ollerenshaw

Guests: Jose Trejo, Sam Verdeja, MN Latino Caucus; Pablo Murillo, MN Latino Caucus; Manuel Guerrero

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/ Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Review of Agenda	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Council Chairman Vargas with Quorum established.</p> <p>The agenda was presented with the purpose and outcomes. Changes were requested to have the treasurer's report followed by the Officer Elections and then the Legislative section to approve the fact sheets and position statements. BM G. Bonilla adds to the agenda a discussion on Media outreach under New Business.</p> <p>BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to accept the agenda with the changes; BM A. O'Meara Seconded the Motion, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The agenda was adopted with the changes.</p>	<p>← Motion carried to approve agenda</p>	
Council Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2010, January 15 and March 26, 2011	<p>Board minutes were presented to be approved.</p> <p>Minutes for the November 6, 2010 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to approve the November 6, 2010 meeting minutes; Motion seconded by BM Jesus Villaseñor, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Minutes for the January 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to approve the January 15, 2011 meeting minutes; Motion seconded by BM Jesus Villaseñor, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Minutes for the March 26, 2011 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to approve the March 26, 2011 meeting minutes; Motion seconded by BM Luisa Pierce, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Chair Vargas notes that minutes are too long, and they need to be more condensed. The minutes should highlight the motions with details. The format looks great and they are very presentable.</p>	<p>← Motion carried to approve Nov. minutes</p> <p>← Motion carried to approve Jan. minutes</p> <p>← Motion carried to approve March's minutes</p>	

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	<p><i>MN Humanities Center (MHC) addendum</i></p> <p>CLAC entered into a contract with MHC two years ago, the original contract was amended as approved by the Board on March 26th to add new activities. The amendment was executed in May and CLAC received a check in the amount of \$27,222.00 on June 1st.</p> <p>Due to recent staff changes at CLAC and considering the remaining contract term, CLAC will not be able to carry out the entire activities/ programs per amendment #1 of the contract. The Council needs to reimburse \$13,111.20 to the MHC for work that will not be carried out.</p> <p>Treasurer A. O’Meara makes a Motion to return the money back to MHC for the work that will not be done. BM G. Bonilla Seconds the motion. All in favor vote, Motion carries unanimously.</p> <p>BM M. Villanueva questions the editing capabilities of the videos/interviews by the MHC. The Arts & Cultural committee needs to meet to draft recommendations to MHC.</p> <p><i>FY 2012</i></p> <p>There are many uncertainties about what will happen next Fiscal Year. As of now, there is a possibility of a Government shut-down. There are a few recommendations on the table. The new Chair and executive committee will have to meet with MMB to discuss a contingency plan for the staff. Final recommendation is to leave the August Board retreat as is and leave things tentatively.</p>	<p>← Motion carries to return money to MHC</p> <p>← Action Item: draft amendment 2 to reimburse MHC</p>	<p>✓ Done Funds were returned (\$13,111.20)</p> <p>G. Rodriguez ✓ Done Amendment signed on 06/16/11</p>
Officer Elections	<p>Chair Vargas presents on the roles and responsibilities of each Executive committee member: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Officers hold office for a term of one (1) year, and may be elected to successive terms and take office on July 1 of the current year.</p> <p>Floor opens for nominations: Elected officials were voted by default due to other nominees declined nomination.</p> <p>Chair: Gerardo Bonilla Vice-Chair: Margaret Villanueva Treasurer: Adriana O’Meara Secretary : Jesus Villaseñor</p>	<p>← New Officers</p>	
Break	Meeting called back to order at 12:25 pm		

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	<p>Board Members motion and approve to allow community member and first executive director of CLAC, Jose Trejo, participate in the discussion.</p> <p>Trejo shares that he has been talking to people, especially after finding out that the Legislature wants to put CLAC under the MN Humanities Center. He also provided information about when the Council was first created; how viable it was to the community and to the government. He talks about “perception” and how the community leaders & legislators perceive the Council. To them the Council is becoming irrelevant, and that it is out of touch with the community among many other perceptions. The Governor’s staff commented that several board members are calling their office and complaining about other Council members.</p> <p>Trejo provided recommendations to the members of the Council. He added that the solution is to create an assessment: where do we stand? What do we do to change that perception? Second step is to refocus.</p> <p>Chair Vargas shares with Trejo about the Operational Excellence strategic planning that the Council underwent to become focused and as a result a 2-year Calendar/ Action plan was developed. The Council cannot be everything to everybody, but the strategic partnership piece is critical so that some of that perception can be changed. Through the planning process, from May to August CLAC is out in the community conducting surveys, community forum and doing data analysis and seek input; In the fall, CLAC meets with Legislators and engages them on what the Council found through the forums; then from January to end of May CLAC works on Legislative issues and is present at the Capitol during session. J. Trejo thanks the Council members for the time.</p>		
Legislative Update	<p>ED Garcia updates on the status on priority bills that we have been following:</p> <p>SF 1047: State Government Omnibus Bill language states that CLAC will undergo a 20% budget cut (down to \$231,000). Additionally, CLAC will have to submit reports to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the groups. After testimony by Ilean Her (CAPM) and Hector Garcia (CLAC), the Conference Committee deleted the Senate language assigning appropriations to the Councils through the Minnesota Humanities Center. Additionally, the conference committee included language that would require the Councils to report to the legislature, in regards to how it uses its appropriations. Sunset evaluation of CLAC, CBM, and CAPM June 30, 2012. This bill was Vetoes by Governor Dayton on 05/24/2011</p> <p>SF 1363: Legacy bill- \$500,000 appropriated for the first year, \$500,000 appropriated for the second year of programs and cooperation between the Minnesota Humanities Center and the minority Councils and the Indian Affairs Council for community events and programs that celebrate and preserve artistic, historical, and cultural heritage. These funds will cover grants to be assigned to the Councils on a competitive basis.</p>		

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	<p>BM recommend to convene a meeting with MHC to find out what their focus is and align their focus to our charter and write a good grant for the bid. In addition, meet with the other Councils to see if we can partner to put together a bid that will benefit all instead of creating a bidding war.</p> <p>SF 1426: Redistricting plan- This bill has stirred much controversy, with the vote going down party lines. In 1970, 1980, and 2000, the courts ended up intervening and drawing up the redistricting maps. The intervention of the courts is also expected this year. The Governor vetoed bill on 05/19/2011</p> <p>HF 0358: Immigration law enforcement- Collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement, and immigration-related data use provided.</p> <p>SF 0958: Omnibus public safety bill- Cuts the Department of Human Rights by 65%. Includes a new section (Federal Secure Communities Initiative; Data Practices) which would have the state participate in the US Department of Homeland Security's secure community's initiative.</p> <p>HF 0645/SF 0947: Job Training Bill- CLAC's bill for the minority population which is a grant program provided for collaborative activities to reduce unemployment and money appropriated. Chair Vargas points out that any bill recommendation from the Council needs to go through committee and then approved by the Council members. When this was presented to the committee, it lacked a lot of substance and needed lots of work. However, ED Garcia continued with it and without board consent it was introduced as a bill. Chair Vargas commends ED Garcia for the effort, but no bill should be pushed without the consent of the Board. ED Garcia explains the confusion behind this bill between DEED and how Rep. Mullery introduced the bill without informing the ED. In addition, ED Garcia expresses that it is sometimes difficult to wait for committee and board approval on items that are rapidly moving in the Legislature and urges BM to expedite decisions/process.</p> <p>Chair Vargas states that the Board depends on the ED and Legislative Liaison to be on top of the bills that are being drafted and introduced, constantly keep them informed of the bills that are being introduced daily. The process of moving things forward is to bring ideas to committee level for work and pre-approval and then it is brought to the board for final approval.</p> <p>HF 0063/SF 0040: Teacher licensure provisions amended, alternative teacher preparation program and limited-term teacher license established, and report required. Signed by Governor on 03/07/11</p> <p>A. Ollerenshaw shared information about the Latino Legislative Day @ the Capitol. There were 19 people that signed in; 4 Legislator's participation; 7 community organizations as exhibitors; 4 panelist and had 5 meetings with Legislators. This is CLAC's opportunity to push legislation</p>	<p>← Action item: Convene meeting with MHC; Convene meeting with other Councils</p>	<p>H. Garcia ✓ Done</p>

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	<p>through and bring partners to the capitol to support our efforts. Chair Vargas comments that the benchmark is set very high because of the successful turnout during the last LLDC. About 200 attended the event; it was featured on Kare11 news and other Latino newspapers.</p> <p>The Legislative committee met and reviewed fact sheets and position statements for Economic Development and Workforce Development. The purpose of the Fact sheets is to educate the public on issues that affect the Latino community and the position statements are CLAC's position on certain issues. These documents will be uploaded to CLAC's website.</p> <p>BM R. Sedarski makes a Motion to approve the fact sheets and position statements for Economic Development and Workforce Development; BM G. Bonilla Seconds the Motion. All in favor vote. Motion carries unanimously.</p>	<p>← Motion carried to adopt FS/PS.</p> <p>← Action Item: Post fact sheets & position statement on website</p>	<p>G. Rodriguez</p> <p>✓ Done</p>
Personnel Committee Report	<p>Chair Vargas shares that the committee has not met and therefore there is not a development plan for ED. In addition, a Chair for the committee needs to be elected.</p> <p>BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to open the floor for nominations; BM M. Hill Seconds the Motion.</p> <p>Current members are BM Luisa Pierce, BM Jesus Villaseñor, BM Rebecca Sedarski, BM Margaret Villanueva and BM Maricruz Hill. Newly elected Chair, Gerardo Bonilla participates as an ex-officio member.</p> <p>Chair Vargas states that whatever is designed it has to go to AG's for review.</p> <p>Chair Vargas nominates BM Margaret Villanueva to Chair the Personnel Committee; BM G. Bonilla Seconded the Motion. All in Favor Vote. Motion carries unanimously.</p>	<p>← Motion made</p> <p>← Motion carried New Committee Chair: M. Villanueva</p>	
CLAC Community Forum Update	<p>The Arts & Cultural committee decided to host four forums in the month of May and June. One forum was done on May 19th in Northfield with 18 participants. Staff collected information about education & economic development. Staff listened to the community in that city and identified two community leaders who will get training to be prepared to assist CLAC with testimony during the legislative session if needed. CLAC is preparing to do a follow-up meeting. One item the community shared during the forum is the success of the TORCH program which has a 90% graduation rate within the Latino community. The TORCH Program support High School students to graduate and provide support for students to go to college. BM L. Pierce shares that there is a similar program in Duluth. The staff is trying to set up a meeting with the person in charge to ask why it is so successful.</p> <p>Another issue raised was the non-participation of the people within the community, the community is very isolated and do not engage in the activities/events.</p>		

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	<p>Staff needs to be very specific of where the data/information is being gathered from. BM L. Pierce shares information about the PASS program which has been in existence for a year. One of the reasons why this program has been a success is because their focus has been meeting with the students' parents where they teach them about the school system and what it is all about.</p> <p>BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to extend the Board meeting until 2:30; Motion Seconded by BM M. Villanueva. All in favor. Motion carries with an all in favor vote.</p> <p>Chair Vargas states that another portion of the qualitative research is for staff to draw what the Council can do based on the recommendations from the community forums. Every forum/meeting is important and staff needs to write a summary with recommendations included and solutions of what CLAC can do keeping in mind that there might be many things that CLAC cannot do, but it can certainly tackle one or two things.</p> <p>Another item is to look for the legislators that represent a district and convene meetings between community members and legislators which could be a way to influence them. But in order to do this, the staff needs to do an analysis of what was learned and present it to the Board for support.</p> <p>An observation made by Chair Vargas to the Legislative committee is that the Civic engagement process is not being followed, which asks to do the research prior to each community visit and know the issues very well before each meeting. It is important to do that and understand the community from a data perspective and a statistical perspective.</p> <p>A. Ollerenshaw continued presenting the tentative schedule for future community forums. These forums will be hosted with funding from the Otto Bremer grant/contract.</p> <p>Some Board members question if the civic engagement plan/process is being followed by staff. The process calls for staff to prepare a questionnaire and as they call to invite community members, they should be asking what their concerns are so staff can prepare to address them during the forum. Basically, there will be a number of concerns from the community and based on those concerns staff should do the invite of people of whoever is going to be part of the panel to help answer those concerns and provide solutions. There was a lot of money and time invested into the Operational Excellence plan and the Civic Engagement plan.</p> <p>BM Sedarski commented that the forums/meeting held in Rochester were a great success. There was great input from the community and the key players were all there (U of MN, Mayo Clinic, IBM, etc). The staff followed the plan and took information that pertained to Rochester. There were all key players and their focus was to help the Latino community.</p>	<p>← Motion carries to extend meeting time</p>	

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	To end the discussion, the agenda needs to be put together by CLAC who conveys the general perspective and the core agenda and discussion is based on the one-on-one conversations as people are being invited to the forum. Chair Vargas has the original model which he will email to the Board.	← Action Item: Send original Civic Engagement plan to BM	Chair M. Vargas
Executive Director's Report and update on 2010-11 Biennium Calendar & Action Plan	<p>ED Garcia highlights some of his meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testified before Senate and House committees, especially on SF 1047 to delete clause that would put CLAC under MHC • Collaborative partnership with Dept. of Education and Commissioner Cassellius • Partnership discussed with Commissioner of Health, Ehlinger and Assistant Commissioner Ayres • Partnership discussed with new Chancellor of MNSCU Rosenstone and Whitney Harris, Head of Diversity <p>His priority has been to establish partnerships and gain support for what CLAC does from groups and individuals who have influence. CLAC needs the support from the private sector and the difference departments, especially during this time when the Council is being scrutinized by the Legislators.</p> <p>BM M. Villanueva states that she would like to see more specific information on the outcomes for each meeting, not just ongoing conversations or connections made.</p>	← Action Item: Revise ED's monthly report template	ED Garcia
Census 2010 Databank	<p>Staff met with Mario Hernandez and Rodolfo Gutierrez to talk about the different case scenarios based on the potential budget reduction and the limited support/time CLAC can offer. Based on the conversations, the Census committee will provide the Census analysis in a PDF format and staff will post the information on CLAC's website under the Latino in Minnesota page where the Census 2000 data is currently store. The old Census data will be archived and replaced with the new Census 2010 data.</p> <p>BM G. Bonilla makes a Motion to approve for staff to move forward on the development of the data bank provided that no expenses will be incurred by CLAC; Motion seconded by BM R. Sedarski. All in Favor Vote, Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>← Motion passed: to continue with Census Data Bank</p> <p>← Action Item: update website as new information is received.</p>	G. Rodriguez
New Business	<p>Media outreach</p> <p>BM G. Bonilla states that CLAC needs to start building a relationship and communication with media outlets such as Latino media, MPR, MN Public Radio, and other media to increase the visibility of CLAC not only within the Latino community but also with the population at large. It would be great to go and talk about what happened during the Legislative session and the focus of the Council for this year. Chair Vargas suggests putting together a communications/PR plan that includes what BM are allowed to say publicly and what not to say, how do we present a policy issue, etc. Any ideas should be sent to newly elected Chair G. Bonilla.</p>	← Action Item: Draft PR plan	G. Bonilla
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm		

