



**Chicano Latino  
Affairs Council**  
State of Minnesota

Chicano Latino Affairs Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2011

**Board Members:** BM Margaret Villanueva, Chair-women; BM Jesus Villaseñor, Secretary; BM Rebeca Sedarski; BM Luisa Pierce Gutierrez; BM Mario Vargas; BM Maricruz Hill.

**Staff:** Hector Garcia, Gladys Rodriguez, Astrid Ollerenshaw

**Guests:** Jose Gonzales, Dept. of Labor

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/ Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
<b>Welcome &amp; Review of Agenda</b>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Interim Chairwoman M. Villanueva with Quorum established by BM M. Hill.</p> <p>BM Vargas made a Motion to accept the agenda with the changes; BM J. Villaseñor Seconded the Motion, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The agenda was adopted with the changes.</p>	<p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve agenda</p>	
Council 4th Quarter Meeting Minutes: June 11, 2011	<p>Board minutes were presented to be approved.</p> <p>BM M. Vargas notes that minutes are still 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>Minutes for the June 11, 2011 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. BM Villaseñor makes a Motion to approve the June 11, 2011 meeting minutes; Motion seconded by BM M. Vargas, All in favor. Motion carried with an all in favor vote.</p>	<p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve June 2011's minutes</p>	
Sen. Parry's recommendation	<p>The letter from Sen. Parry was presented to discuss criteria for evaluation of Sunset report.</p> <p>The letter contained what the sunset commission would be doing and what the report, due January 12, 2012, would be about and to explain the: who, what, and where functions.</p> <p>The recommendation the letter mentions is the possibility of changing council stature towards duties such as the council taking on tasks beyond advisory positions. BM M. Vargas mentions that the recommendation would be a good idea depending on what kinds of tasks they advise the board takes on because the board does not want to be accountable for affairs that are not their responsibilities.</p> <p>ED Garcia mentions his meetings with Sen. Parry, his assistant Lucas Nesse and Joe Marble, aid to co-chair of the committee for Rep. Lanning, where they said the purpose is to hold the Council's accountable. ED Garcia gained clarity that they want to hold the Council accountable for the funding from July 1, 2011 to January 12, 2012.</p> <p>The board recommends that either the Chair or someone from the Executive Committee be a part of the meeting with the sunset review committee.</p>	<p>← <b>Recommendation</b></p>	

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	<p>Interim Chair Villanueva observed that Legislation might not understand the advisory function Councils provide and that CLAC should defend that by emphasizing that advising legislators and governors is very important.</p> <p>BM Vargas commended BM Sedarski and said CLAC wants to engage legislators to come, invitations have been given but only few have come and extended the welcome to Sen. Carla Nelson for participating in the meeting.</p>		
Sen. Carla Nelson	<p>Sen. Nelson explained that the letter from Sen. Parry about the Sunset Advisory Commission is the same letter going out to all the other Councils. She also emphasized that this is not a new idea, it has been talked about for years since the government only added projects and commissions and not changed anything in terms of coming up with new ways to serve the public. So this Commission is tasked to give CLAC and other Councils the chance to explain their necessity in the community by showing data, and the outcomes of CLAC efforts.</p> <p>Sen. Nelson also commented that the letter was hinting for the Council to take on more responsibility and since the budget is tight the government wants to get the most out of every dollar; in addition, she advised that CLAC think about what the Council wants to achieve.</p> <p>In addition to sharing her view on the Sunset review, Sen. Nelson shared her experience with the Rochester Forum CLAC held a few months ago. It was a very successful meeting, the Chamber board room was full of influential leaders.</p> <p>Sen. Nelson pointed out that communities need to decide the amount of money to put in to education because economic development is dependent on an educated workforce, but for the first time, graduating high school students will be less educated than their parents.</p> <p>Sen. Nelson then said there was an increase in the investment going to K-12 kids, and stressed that the decision on where the money goes should be up to local school boards and their communities and it is not the legislature's job to do so. She went into detail about Race to the Top, Alternative Licensing for teachers, how they are focusing on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading level, Reading corps and some statistics concerning disparities the Latino community and Minnesota.</p> <p>BM Vargas asked the question about and access to capital by Latino and Minority entrepreneurship. Sen. Nelson answered by saying that the state is experiencing a shortage of venture capital for all entrepreneurs but that a business plan, and education was important. She also motioned that they needed those seeking capital to be qualified and many were not.</p> <p>The Board Members thanked Sen. Nelson for her active participation and encouraged her to apply to be part of the CLAC Board membership.</p>		

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<b>Legislative Summary</b>	<p>ED Garcia first talked about the State Government Shutdown that lasted from July 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Throughout the shutdown, ED Garcia kept in constant communication Commissioner Jim Schowalter who is the Commissioner of the Minnesota Management &amp; Budget (MMB), and with and Human Resources.</p> <p>Garcia continued to speak about the Budget and Special Session State Government Finance Bill and reported that the council would only take a 5% budget cut instead of the predicted 20%.</p> <p>Then added on the Sunset Commission. BM Vargas made the recommendation to have the report reviewed by the Legislative committee after it is drafted before sending it to the Board. This should be done by the next Board meeting in November. It was suggested that Sen. Torres Ray and Rep. Mariani be contacted to get their feedback and discuss their recommendations for the Sunset Review.</p> <p>Executive Director Garcia continued and spoke about the Jobs Training bill that Rep. Mullery submitted independently. The concern was raised that the bill was not approved by the Board, but the bill was rejected due to the Legislation's hesitance on spending more money. BM Vargas makes a Motion to revise and enhance the Jobs Training Bill; Motion seconded by Villaseñor, All in favor. Motion carried with an all in favor vote.</p> <p>Executive Director Garcia went on to talk about education and Commissioner Casellius working group on state funding for education with suggestions on how the Latino and other Minorities can be better and more seriously taken into consideration. He also mentioned the fact that in the Race to the Top application one of the requirements which was the achievement gap was not addressed. He recommended for CLAC to get involved. Then the concern was raised that the education committee was not formed, BM Pierce Gutierrez and BM Villaseñor have volunteered to be a part of that committee with BM Francisco Morales.</p> <p>Redistricting is also an issue for the Latino community and Executive Director Garcia has been attending meetings focusing on that issue. BM Vargas recommends to get more involve and reach out to the community to protect the Latino vote.</p> <p>BM M. Vargas comments that the MN Latino Disparities 2011 report is not ready to be brought to the board, there are too many concerns and the fact sheets and briefs need to be updated with the 2010 Census but not used publicity due to the statistics being too general. The Latino Disparities report was deferred to the Legislative committee to work on it, have a consensus and then bring to bring to the Board for approval at the next meeting.</p>	<p>← <b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to revise Jobs Training Bill</p> <p>← <b>Recommendation</b> to have Leg. Committee work on disparities report</p>	<p>H. Garcia</p> <p>H. Garcia</p>

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<b>Biennium Calendar &amp; Action Plan</b>	<p>Staff presented the Biennium report for 2012 – 2013, BM Vargas made a motion to approve the changes made to the calendar / action plan with the necessary changes. Motion seconded by BM Sedarski, All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Francisco Gonzales was invited to facilitate discussion about possible changes for the Sunset Review. When the discussion focused on the Sunset Review, Francisco Gonzales has suggested that general themes must be made clear, steps need to be taken internally and getting outside stakeholders to get more involved.</p> <p><i>Closed Session (Administrative issues)</i></p> <p>BM Sedarski made a motion to merge the Legislative Researcher position and the Community Outreach position into one, have the Board look at the job description which includes salary, and proceed with hiring; Motion seconded by BM Villaseñor. All in favor. Motion Carried with an all in favor vote.</p> <p>BM Vargas made a motion to approve the dates for the 2012 Latino Cluster Community Engagement Forums so staff can begin planning; Motion seconded by BM Pierce Gutierrez. Motion carried with an all in favor vote.</p> <p>BM Villaseñor made a motion to approve the date, February 16, 2012, to host the Latino Legislative day at the Capital; Motion seconded by BM Sedarski. Motion carried with an all in favor vote.</p>	<p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve the Biennium report for 2012 – 2013 with changes</p> <p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to combine community/research position</p> <p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve dates for 2012 Community Forum</p> <p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve date for Legislative day at Capital</p>	
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Gladys Rodriguez and Executive Director Garcia which includes the Year End Financial status for Fiscal year 2011, in addition to an overview for FY 2012 with salary projections of new hires.</p> <p>For Fiscal year 2011 the total budget was \$309,893 and CLAC spent a total of \$291,402. The remaining balance of \$18,490 was returned to the state with a memo. Commissioner Schowalter sent a letter in response and commended CLAC for their responsibility.</p> <p>Fiscal year 2012 started July 2011 with a budget of \$275,000.</p>		
<b>Humanities Center Grant and DVD approval</b>	<p>This year the Legacy Fund will allow the Councils to ask community members and organizations to apply for the grant but the criteria is unclear and the assumption is the Humanities Center will help and manage the grant.</p> <p>The TPT Latino Arts documentary videos have been used, these pieces were produced by the collaborative effort of the Art Board.</p> <p>BM Pierce Gutierrez made a Motion to approve the use of Humanities Center/CLAC tpt documentary DVD material because they have already been disseminated and authorized the Board</p>	<p>← <b>Motion</b> carried to approve the TPT Latino Arts DVDs</p>	

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	Chair to sign a document indicating CLAC's approval; Motion seconded by BM Villaseñor. Motion carried with an all in Favor vote.		
<b>Role of Executive committee</b>	<p>The Policies and Procedures Manual was discussed in the closed sections so this discussion was passed.</p> <p>F. Gonzales will send suggestions and ideas about the Sunset Clause to ED Garcia and will relay these to the board if he sees fit.</p>		
<b>Election of new Chair</b>	<p>Chair Villanueva explained that she is the acting chair because former Chair Gerardo Bonilla received an internship in Washington, DC with the Latino Caucus, and therefor she had to step in as Interim Chair. The floor opened for nominations.</p> <p>Nominations by closed vote: BM Villaseñor with 3 votes, BM Sedarski with 2 votes, and Interim Chair Villanueva with 1 vote.</p> <p>BM Sedarski is voted as the new Secretary.</p> <p>BM Vargas made a Motion to approve and elect BM J. Villaseñor as Chair and BM R. Sedarski as Secretary; Motion seconded by BM Pierce Gutierrez. Motion Carried with an All in favor vote.</p>	<p>← New Officers</p> <p>← Motion to approve the new officers</p>	
<b>Committee review</b>	<p>The Education Committee currently consists only of BM F. Morales. BM J. Villaseñor, BM L. Pierce Gutierrez and BM Villanueva were added to the committee.</p> <p>For the Arts and Cultural Committee, BM Vargas would like to step down as Chair but will continue to work within the committee. The committee members are BM Vargas, BM Pierce Gutierrez and BM Villanueva.</p> <p>For the Personnel Committee, the concern was raised to have this committee meet due to ED Garcia's second anniversary coming up.</p>	← Education Committee members	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm		