



Board of Directors Annual Retreat/Meeting Minutes

Date: July 20, 2013

Location: MN Humanities Center, 987 E. Ivy Street, St. Paul MN 55106

Present: BM Krystell Escobar, Chairwoman, BM Cynthia Campos, Vice Chairwoman, BM Francisco Gonzalez, Treasurer, BM Michael Muñoz, BM Gerardo Bonilla, BM Adriana O'Meara, BM Suyapa Miranda, BM Jesús Villaseñor, BM Margaret Villanueva, BM Luisa Pierce, Secretary (via conference call), Sen. Patricia Torres Ray, Rep. Linda Slocum.

Staff: Hector Garcia, Executive Director; Sarah Goodspeed, Legislative and Community Relations Manager; Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator; Elyse Ruiz, Community Outreach Specialist, and Gladys Rodriguez, Office Manager.

Guests: Jo Vos, Project Manager, Auditor's Office, Viviana Limon, Laura Schwartz, Legislative Auditor's Office, Femina Ajayi-Hackworth, DNR, and Marcia Avner, MAP Trainer.

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Review of Agenda	Meeting called to order by Chair Krystell Escobar. Motion made by BM Adriana O'Meara to have the agenda amended to move the Exec. Director's Report to prior to the discussion of CLAC's Strategy. BM Gerardo Bonilla seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes. BM Gerardo Bonilla made the motion to adopt the agenda. BM Adriana O'Meara seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes. Introductions by Board Members and visitors.	← Motion passed ← Motion passed	
Review and approve Minutes	BM Michael Muñoz makes the motion to adjust the minutes to address the approval of the contract signed by Jim Boyle. BM Adriana O'Meara seconds the motion. All in favor vote. Motion passes. Motion made by BM Cynthia Campos to adopt the minutes with changes. BM Adriana O'Meara seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes.	← Motion passed ← Minutes approved	
Board Development	Chair Krystell Escobar introduced Marcia Avner from MAP, who facilitated an engaging conversation on tools CLAC can use to accomplish CLAC's objectives. She provided strategies on how CLAC can build upon where it has been and how it can engage in more depth. There were also conversations around how to effectively advocate for the Latino community, gain trust from the Latino community, and foster and grow the relationships CLAC has with Legislators, the Governor and other allies.		

Executive Director's Report	ED Hector Garcia informed the board that the Financial Audit by the Office of Legislative Auditor came out great and that there will not be a more in depth Financial Audit. There will, however, be an Administrative and Programmatic Audit that will continue until the end of the year, culminating with a report in the beginning of 2014. ED Garcia highlighted CLAC's strategies in addressing achievement gap and graduation rates of Latinos, which include Humboldt's implementation of HACER Report's Elements of Success. ED Hector Garcia also addressed the special projects CLAC has been involved in, which include crime prevention meetings, which have led to the creation of a Crime Community Roundtable.		
Break			
Discussion of CLAC's Strategy	ED Hector Garcia presented strategies for moving forward. He emphasized the fact that huge sums of money channeled into solving the disparities are not necessarily going to be effective unless they are accompanied with the required support. ED Hector Garcia spoke to the importance of Latinos being present at the decision-making tables regardless of how uncomfortable it may sometimes feel. ED Hector Garcia also discussed and encouraged recommendations on how CLAC can leverage its scarce resources and partnerships while at the same time remaining loyal to the community's interests. ED Hector Garcia reflected on why CLAC has been so committed to Rochester. In this discussion he shared that Rochester, a city of approximately 100, 000 persons had a much better sense of the Latino community's potential, which is easier identified in a smaller community. ED Hector Garcia read four of the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans' clauses, and said he wanted to recommend for the governor the addition of these clauses to CLAC's statute. ED Hector Garcia clarified to the Board that by adding clauses to the statues it did not necessarily mean CLAC's structure needed to be changed. BM Gerardo Bonilla voiced support to expand CLAC's statute. Chair Krystell Escobar voiced the importance of CLAC's strategies in economic development. She used as example the MN's corporations outsourcing advertisements for Latinos, when Latinos and others here in the state have the capacity to do create these advertising campaigns for corporations.		

	Sen. Patricia Torres Ray said that ED Hector Garcia and CLAC's responsibility is too big. ED Hector Garcia is being asked to be everywhere and it could be a difficult position. For that reason she recommended that CLAC select a few key areas/topics and put all efforts to impact these areas. That she said would be a more strategic approach. Chair Krystell Escobar acknowledged the tradeoff between focusing on long-term strategies versus short term tangible outcomes that CLAC will have to consider when deciding CLAC's next goals. Rep. Linda Slocum encouraged CLAC to train people in a nonpartisan way to become deputized. By being deputized individuals will then have a stronger influence on legislators. She also encouraged increasing the number of Latino educators as they can have a positive impact on students.		
Education Project	ED Hector Garcia updated the Board on the status of the implementation of HACER Report's Elements of Success at Northfield and Humboldt. He said Humboldt was getting ready to finalize its plan on how it's going to be implementing the elements of success. Northfield is not as far along but is making slow progress. ED Hector Garcia also made mention of Tor Dahl and Associates very persuasive proposal, with which CLAC can conceivably get a multimillion-dollar grant to work in 20 schools and improve their productivity. BM Margaret Villanueva asked what CLAC's role would be with this multimillion-dollar grant. ED Hector Garcia said that CLAC's role would be defined when CLAC receives the grant, if that occurs. Senator Torres Ray proposed for CLAC to convene a working group composed of interested individuals from the CLAC Board, Legislature, and education sector to discuss a strategy in education for CLAC. Topics the working group could consider could be the following: what is in legislation, what is coming, projects that we want to incorporate that are working for Latino kids. Then the working group can come up with a proposal outlining the opportunities CLAC can pursue and have the Board vote on it. BM Gerardo Bonilla made the motion convene a working group to discuss the proposal made by Senator Torres Ray about Education and present this proposal the board during the next meeting. BM Michael Muñoz seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes.	← Motion passed	

Treasurer's Report	Office Manager Gladys Rodriguez presented FY 13 financial status for CLAC. There are still open encumbrances therefore this budget does not reflect the final surplus. YTD expenses- \$259,941.26 Unobligated expenses- \$1,240.20 CLAC is working with \$375,000 budget for FY 14. Most of it is allocated in salaries (\$324,670), \$18,585 is allocated for rent and the remaining is allocated for board per diems/travel, staff travel, phones, email, supplies, etc. BM Adriana O'Meara moves to approve the FY 13 budget. BM Francisco Gonzalez seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes.	← Motion passed	
Presentation on MNsure	BM Adriana O'Meara moves to change Mario Vargas' presentation from 12:24pm to 1:10pm after the Treasurer's Report. BM Cynthia Campos seconds the motion. All in favor vote. Motion passes. Provided an overview of MNsure. It is a provision of Obamacare. He went into the background of how it got started, who it will serve and the different plans available. He clarified that undocumented individuals would not be eligible for benefits through Obamacare, but he did emphasize that Minnesota had many safety nets in place that do assist undocumented individuals.	← Motion passed	
2013 Legislative Session	Gerardo Bonilla motions to extend the agenda to 2:25pm. BM Cynthia Campos seconds the motion. All in favor vote. Motion passes. Sarah Goodspeed updated the Board on legislative session. She informed the Board that since the last board meeting in May there hadn't been major changes with the legislative session. Most of CLAC's items passed, except for the increase in the minimum wage. Overall this was a very successful year. She informed Board that the legislative committee has started preparing for the next legislative session. BM Francisco Gonzalez makes the motion to pursue the addition of the 4 statues of the Asian Pacific Council: Statues 11, 12, 13, and 14 and act as a liaison with foreign diplomatic agencies. BM Adriana O'Meara seconds. All in favor vote. Motion passes.	← Motion Passed ← Motion passed	
Community	Sarah Goodspeed reported to the Board that CLAC is halfway done with the Community		

Outreach/Forums/ Publicity Campaign	Forums, which have been very successful. The Community Forums had taken place at Willmar, Long Prairie, and Fairbault. The Staff and Board brought together a number of community residents and important leaders in these communities. The small group, roundtable setup of the forums has provided for interactive dialogue between participants, which proved more engaging than CLAC's previous approach of simply presenting to the participants. Elyse Ruiz asked Board if they were interested in seeing the reports of the surveys administered in the community forums. The Board expressed high interest on this matter. BM Cynthia Campos commended Elyse Ruiz for her outreach efforts, as many participants of the forums testified that had it not been for Elyse's direct outreach they would not have considered attending the forum. She also thanked the staff for all the hard work that had gone into putting together the forums. Sarah Goodspeed announced to the Board that the following week she would be leaving CLAC. She expressed gratitude for the leadership, relationships, and friendships she had witnessed and gained. The Board thanked Sarah Goodspeed for her commitment to the Latino community and voiced sadness to see her leave. In closing remarks, Senator Torres Ray and Representative Linda Slocum asked to be included in the community forum in Richfield and offered to provide contact info of leaders and community members that could be invited to the forum.		
Boar Meeting Adjournment	BM Adriana O'Meara makes the motion to adjourn. BM Cynthia Campos seconds the motion. All in favor vote. Motion passes.	← Motion passed	

Prepared by Rosario Plascencia, Research Analyst and Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator