



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2014

Location: 60 Empire Dr, St. Paul Minnesota

Present: BM Krystell Escobar, Chairwoman; BM Suyapa Miranda, Vice-Chairwoman; BM Jesús Villaseñor; BM Margaret Villanueva; BM Kandace Creel-Falcon; BM Luisa Pierce; Senator Patricia Torres-Ray.

Staff: Hector Garcia, Executive Director; Elyse Ruiz, Legislative and Community Relations Manager; Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator; Rosario Plascencia, Policy Research Analyst, and Gladys Rodriguez, Office Manager.

Guests: Femina Ajayi-Hackisorn, MN Department of Corrections; Denys Vigil and Tikki Heublein, CARE (Center for Alternative & Responsible Education).

| Agenda Item | Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted | Follow-Up/Timeline | Person(s) Responsible |
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| Welcome & Review of Agenda | <p>Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Krystell Escobar.</p> <p>BM Jesus Villaseñor makes the motion to extend duration of meeting until 12:30pm. Vice-Chairwoman Suyapa Miranda seconds the motion. All in favor.</p> <p>BM Jesus Villaseñor makes the motion to approve items on the agenda with additions suggested. Vice-Chairwoman Suyapa Miranda seconds the motion. All in favor.</p> | <p>← Motion passed</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> | |
| Review and approve Minutes | <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon wanted minutes to properly reflect discussion on previous board meeting about timeline of getting the draft for the Annual Report to the Legislature to the Board. Suggestions included having a draft of the report with ample time to contribute suggestions/input. BM Kandace Creel-Falcon recommended to have a draft prepared and sent to Board for discussion by the September 20th meeting, which gives enough time for revisions to be made before the November meeting.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon moves to approve the minutes with her proposed amendments. BM Jesus Villaseñor seconds the motion. All in favor.</p> | <p>← Action Item</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> | G. Rodriguez |
| Executive Director Report | <p>ED Hector García commented that he had an important meeting with Governor Dayton's Chief of Staff Tina Smith, Education Advisor Hue Nguyen and Adam Prock in charge of appointments. They discussed the Rochester Project called "Empowering Minnesota's Children" and Art Rolnick's Early Education Center, the Cradle-to-Career full community support approach to the Achievement Gap. ED mentioned that they were very pleased with CLAC's initiative in Rochester and that they will support it. They also talked about the bill that CLAC recommended to Rep. Slocum, Rep. Murphy and Senator Torres Ray about adding some members to our board from several agencies and the Governor's Office. ED said that the Indian Affairs Council is the only council that has this kind of representation. Rep. Slocum is going to introduce a modified version of that bill.</p> <p>ED García commented about a meeting the Council on Black Minnesotans convened with a large number</p> | | |

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| | <p>of legislators and community members to talk about legislation. It was a very constructive meeting. The Board of the Council on Black Minnesotans invited ED to talk about the Rochester project because they want to join us in the project; but they have not made a final decision yet.</p> <p>In Education, a delegation from Rochester and another group from the Twin Cities visited the Northside Achievement Zone to see how we can copy that model in Rochester. We went to Mayo Clinic with Art Rolnick and Senator Carla Nelson to share with them what we would like to do and Art Rolnick asked them for a \$1 million dollars grant that he would match with federal and state funding.</p> <p>ED García met with Senator Torres Ray and Rep. Mariani to discuss education and other legislation. We got some really great recommendations to focus to ensure that legislation gets implemented and make sure that legislation gets followed up on.</p> <p>We organized the visits of about 70 students from Humboldt High School and Northfield High School to the Mayan Exhibit free of charge. It was important for them because the identity with their past which they didn't know about.</p> <p>ED García said that it is very exciting that the Phillips Family Foundation called them back after CLAC sent a letter of intent for the Humboldt project because it has been on hold. We lost the Legacy Funding so now we are going to meet with them on the 3rd of February and hopefully we can get some money to implement that project.</p> <p>ED met with Chancellor Rosenstone and Vice Chancellor O'Brien at MNSCU and they really like the idea of this representation on our board and they asked if we could include the Chancellor as well as Commissioner Pogemiller. We have been invited to join the Youth Council Retreat by MNSCU and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. It is an exciting effort that was recommended by Elia Bruggeman sometime ago. Everything is paid by MNSCU and it will be held in June.</p> <p>On Economic Development, we have been trying for a long time to get Latino companies to take advantage of the contracts that have been made available to disadvantaged business enterprises. We are still trying to talk with Kraus Anderson, Mortenson Companies, with Val Vargas that is creating a new Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. This is great news because the Chamber was also on hold and wants to re-start in 3-4 states: MN, SD, ND and eventually IA.</p> <p>Greater MSP (powerful, private sector and local government effort on economic development) came to ED to talk about partnership with CLAC.</p> <p>ED mentioned about the document "Vocational Rehabilitation Services Value Proposition" given to him by Kim Peck from DEED. ED proposed this document to approach things in a more systemic way.</p> <p>ED Hector García was given an award at the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday at the History Center for the</p> | | |
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| | <p>work that CLAC is doing. USHLI invited ED to a conference in Chicago on February 13th to receive another award.</p> <p>In Communications, the ED informed everyone that CLAC's website is finished both the Spanish and English version. CLAC's Annual Report was sent to the legislature and has had a great response from everyone that has seen it. LCN did a great job.</p> <p>BM Margaret Villanueva mentioned that she has a colleague at the University of St. Cloud named Luis Estevez, architect and city planner, who works in Housing. Hector García asked BM Margaret Villanueva to ask Mr. Luis Estevez to call him.</p> <p>ED García introduced Justin as an intern. Justin is in the Master's program at the university of St. Thomas in International Leadership and looks forward to working with CLAC. Femina Ajayi, Affirmative Action Manager from the Department of Corrections, works on issues like discrimination, employment, diversity, English proficiency and looks forward to working with the Council. Tikki Heublien, co-director for Center for Alternative and Responsible Education and Denys Vigil also from the Center for Alternative and Responsible Education and looks forward to collaboration and working together.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon mentioned that from the report that was sent to the Board about Jim Boyle and Associates' work she thinks that Jim Boyle just went to many meeting and there was no outcome based reporting on what was done in the meetings or what was being done later. BM Kandace Creel-Falcon requested a more detailed report on how he and his team met the objectives that were outlined in his proposal. From what Board sees, it seems that nothing was achieved, and should not be what is perceived. ED Hector García gave context to the question. There was discussion around the impact that reimaging has in support of Jim Boyle's work. ED said that we could have never being able to afford his rates. ED Hector Garcia said he would ask for that report from Jim Boyle.</p> | ← Action item | H. Garcia |
| Treasurer Report | <p>Gladys Rodriguez reports that \$312,597.47 is projected to cover staff salaries and \$49,890.51 for Board and office expenses until the end of the fiscal year. With what has been spent so far, there is a current cushion of about \$6,512.02</p> <p>This cushion would cover LLDC expenses and the IT support, which at this time, there is no contract in place. Chairwoman Krystell Escobar commended Gladys Rodriguez for the new format in which the budget was presented.</p> <p>BM Suyapa Miranda strongly feels that CLAC should do more to get sponsorship for grants. Therefore, she recommends that a fundraising subcommittee be created to deal with grant/sponsorships. The Board discussed the attendance of ED Hector García to the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) Conference. CLAC would cover the registration cost of \$170.00, \$380.00 for lodging, meals and taxi/cab rides to and from the airport. An estimated expense of \$650.00</p> | | |

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| Legislative Report | <p>The annual Legislative Day (LLDC) at the Capitol was divided into two events. One day is the Cesar Chavez Day Celebration and the other is a Policy Summit.</p> <p>The LLDC will take place on Monday March 31, 2014 in celebration of the Cesar Chavez Day. The program includes Latinos speakers, prominent government figures, and a tribute to Latino Veterans.</p> <p>The policy summit will be held at the Capitol in a hearing room. This events needs to take place really soon, before February 25th, and a date needs to be set. Attendees would be Latino organizations involved in influencing policy/legislation.</p> <p>Senator Torres Ray advised that it would be a benefit for CLAC to speak about stance on issues like Minimum Wage. CLAC needs to speak for Latinos. Most of the people that make less than \$8.00 are Latinos. Get figures of Latinos in occupations, such as restaurant, construction and hotel industry. She would like to see a policy paper that would include statistics on Latinos working in minimum wage industries and jobs.</p> <p>Chairwoman Krystell Escobar said that this Policy Summit should be about establishing CLAC and defining our role in the community. She sees the values for rallying support behind the priorities because there is a deficit in complete understanding of things like Early Childhood and Minimum Wage. We have to bring our leaders to tell the story to make it clear and gather their support. To tell them why we chose those issues in this Summit. ED García mentioned that the exchange will be a good thing to have everyone and to be convened to discuss legislation.</p> <p>Elyse Ruiz continued presenting CLAC's Legislative recommendations for HF. 1592, H.F 1882 HF 860, and H.F 1945. HF 1592- Early Learning Scholarship funds used for programs that provide early learning experiences in a bicultural, bilingual or culturally diverse programming environments. HF 1882- universal preschool for all 4-year olds. HF 860 extending funding for English Language Learners from 5-7 years. HF 1945- expanding upon World's Best Workforce to incorporate non-traditional instructional program choices.</p> <p>Senator Patricia Torres Ray asked to exclude HF 860 extending ELL funding from 5-7 years, from 2014 Legislative Recommendations. Senator Torres Ray and Representative Mariani are working on drafting a comprehensive redesign of ELL for the state of Minnesota. The state currently provides \$157 million dollars for ELL programs. There are 67,000 English Language Learners in the system. About 23 districts receive the bulk of the money. Per pupil funding formula results in about \$5,700. This funding many times, is accompanied by additional funding for disability, free and reduced lunch, etc. Typically a regular white child receives \$6,000 and our (Latino) kids receive 2 times that amount (\$12,000-\$13,000). Our kids should be served better because they receive doubled the amount, but systemically that is not the result. We should be asking very concretely how this money is being spent.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Sen. Torres Ray advises composing a policy paper to aid in creating awareness around ELL system and need for change. Senate Education Committee could provide CLAC with relevant statistics to cite.</p> <p>HF 1945 World's Best Workforce, ensuring nontraditional instructional program choices are available. Senator Torres Ray mentioned that this is one of the most powerful pieces to be added into the school integration plan. Districts need to set goals, plan, & implement.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon moves to extend meeting until 12:50pm. BM Suyapa Miranda seconds the motion. All in favor vote.</p> <p>Elyse Ruiz talked about Minimum Wage: 2 versions. The Senate version requires that the minimum wage be raised to \$7.75 in 2015 the House version will like to see \$9.50 in 2015, includes indexing it to inflation, keeping the tip penalty off and complying with federal working rules. HF 92 was introduced last session. A new introduction for this time around, calling for Minimum wage to be put up to the voters. Bill for a constitutional amendment, putting raising the wage up for the voters to decide on the 2014 ballot to increase the minimum wage by 2015 at \$10. CLAC is part of Raise the Wage Coalition that supports HF 92.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon mentioned that at the last legislative committee meeting, even though there was not quorum, there was general approval of legislative recommendations and fact sheets.</p> <p>Senator Torres Ray left early, but left the council with her words of encouragement and support. She said that if CLAC sticks to a couple of issues and produced policy papers that nobody else is doing, that alone is powerful. She believes CLAC has tremendous presence in the community, good reputation, talented, smart people who are very well recognized inside and outside of the community. We don't need Richard Calborn to frame issues in our community. Things happen at the right time at the right place. She said that there is a lot a value in CLAC's message. If we pick a couple of things and we produce these papers and tell the stories about our communities that no on else can, about our students, little kids and the work that is happening in Rochester and how it is making a difference and staying focused on that, she thinks that this is powerful. This is what is going to put this organization in the long term in an incredible place.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon makes the motion to approve Draft CLAC 2014 Legislative Recommendations, position statements and fact sheets documents, with the exclusion of HF 860. BM Luisa Pierce seconds. All in favor vote.</p> | <p>← Motion passed</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> | |
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| New Business | <p>Chairwoman Krystel Escobar nominates BM Kandace Creel-Falcon as the Interim Legislative Committee Chair until new appointments have been made. BM Margaret Villanueva seconded. All in favor vote.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the approval of ED Hector García to attend the USHLI conference in Chicago. The staff was asked to look into the possibility of waiving the registration fee. BM Jesús Villaseñor commented that CLAC could not appear to be too frugal in shortening the visit or requesting that the fee be waived.</p> <p>Chairwoman Krystell Escobar makes the motion to approve ED Hector García to attend the full USHLI Conference. BM Kandace Creel-Falcon seconds the motion. All in favor vote.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Flacon moves to approve the day for the Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol for March 31st. BM Suyapa Miranda seconded. All in second vote.</p> <p>Minutes to reflect that we are leaving for the next meeting the proposal for the consulting services, the discussion of committees and subcommittees and the staff proposal for a timeline of the annual report. BM Jesus Villaseñor proposed having a minute of silence in memory of Manuel Guerrero.</p> <p>BM Suyapa Miranda makes the motion to adjourn. BM Luisa Pierce seconds the motion. All in favor vote.</p> | <p>← Motion passed</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> <p>← Motion passed</p> | |
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Prepared by Rosario Plascencia, Research Analyst and Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator.