



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: August 23, 2014

Location: 60 Empire Dr, Suite 203
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Present: BM Krystell Escobar, Chairwoman; BM Suyapa Miranda, Vice-Chairwoman; BM Kandace Creel-Falcon, Treasurer; BM Jesus Villaseñor; BM Cynthia Campos, via phone; BM Peter Reyes, via phone; BM Luisa Pierce; BM Margaret Villanueva; BM Michael Muñoz, via phone.

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

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action Summary/Motions Adopted	Follow-Up/Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Review of Agenda	<p>Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Krystell Escobar. All in attendance introduced themselves. BM Krystell Escobar makes the motion to move up Treasurer's report directly after break at 11:50 am.</p> <p>BM Cynthia Campos makes the motion to approve the final agenda with the changes made. BM Suyapa Miranda seconds the motion. All in favor vote.</p>	← Motion passed	
Review and approve 06/21/14 Minutes	BM Kandace Creel-Falcon makes the motion to approve the minutes for June 21 st , 2014. BM Suyapa Miranda seconded the motion. All in favor vote.	← Motion passed	
Executive Director's Report	<p>ED Garcia began by discussing several documents that were emailed out to board members. He mentioned the Legislation document, which will be further covered in the meeting by Elyse Ruiz, about bilingual education. There are existing laws about bilingual education and disadvantaged business enterprises who are able to get contracts from the state and city. No Latino businesses have gotten contracts as disadvantaged businesses from the state. It is imperative that the benefits of these laws must reach the community. There were concerns that CLAC does not do anything to address the disparities. ED Garcia encouraged the board to make sure that the people are receiving the benefits from efforts CLAC makes. ED Garcia mentioned the failure of previous scholarships that did not reached Latino students.</p> <p>ED Garcia talked about working on driver's licenses as it is a priority and working with the community and other organizations to accomplish this goal. The team that worked with CLAC for the HOME bills will continue to work with us in other areas. CLAC will continue to work with the Department of Human Services, which has the Council on Ethnic and Cultural Leadership. They are promoting an equity note to ensure that that bills related to health have a link to equity.</p>		

	<p>ED Garcia summarized the documents, which are emails to Senator Torres Ray on the issues that the Senator brought up about disparities and opportunities. Senator Torres Ray wonders why she is not approached with ideas for starting computer companies. ED Garcia followed up by bringing a computer expert and made a presentation to MnSCU who is interested in creating a bridge between the Latino community and computer careers. They plan to hold another meeting with Human Resources and experts in computers. Several members of MnSCU are planning to gather a group so that CLAC can make another presentation.</p> <p>ED Garcia also mentioned the matter of “EverybodyIn”, a blue ribbon commission report in 2012. ED Garcia was invited to participate because he wrote an article about disparity in 2012. The “Everybody In” program, since 2012, has not included Latino employees or candidates for employment. Priority was given to African Americans and American Indians, but they claimed to have made process in including Latinos. ED Garcia wrote to “Everybody In” and implored them to include the Latino community to help them get jobs. Emails regarding this issue were sent to Senator Torres Ray. If we are not at those tables, people are not going to think about Latinos regarding employment and other areas.</p> <p>ED Garcia has met with the Editorial Board about problems regarding immigration and representing the Latino community. Strategic alliances have been formed through a rotary presentation that BM Krystell Escobar and her husband set up. Superintended Haugen met up with ED Garcia to discuss creating and Innovation Zone for education in Rochester. Current methods of correcting disparity in education are not effective so new ideas need to be developed and supported.</p> <p>ED Garcia mentions USHLI that is a very well-known organization for helping fund Latino student’s way through college. Strategic relationship was formed with the YWCA President who will be helping with our Humboldt project. The CORE Round Table is a group of CEOs of corporations who are working on convening a dialogue of corporate leaders on education and immigration.</p> <p>Minnesota Latino Jewish Alliance is coming together well. The JCRC organization in Minneapolis is requesting funding to make this possible. CLAC has been helping the Hispanic National Construction Association and the Minnesota Construction Association put together their conference on October 2nd. The owner of the Saint Paul Saints wants to do something with the Latino community. ED Garcia wrote a paper about the Violent Crime Coordinating Council (VCCC) for law enforcement publication. The Duluth Pilot Project will be done this fall. It is important to address the increase of the use of drugs that</p>		
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	<p>young people are currently having. ED Garcia gave Katie Troyer, new contact appointed person to the diverse communities, gave her a report on what CLAC is doing in the community and she is interested in creating a more efficient strategy in regards with immigration.</p>		
Rochester Project Update	<p>Rebeca Sedarski, CLAC's Regional Community Liaison, talked about how the Rochester project is doing. Firstly, the Alliance of Chicano and Hispanic Latin Americans (ACHLA) has gotten together and formed their own board; they are currently consistently meeting for strategic planning. The next point was the participation in the DMCC conversations with the minority communities to figure out a plan to get minorities and women involved in construction businesses and awarded contracts. At the moment, they are still deciding what type of contracts to implement. She is also helping the organization with planning their Supplier Diversity Event in 2015.</p> <p>At the Austin community forum, Rebeca Sedarski stayed after mass in a church and invited the churchgoers to stay after service and participate in the forum about voting and voter education. The community members did not stay for the forum. After speaking to the priest, she learned that the Latino community in Austin has been treated negatively and are not open to share or participate in these forums. Unless amenities are not provided to them, the Latino community in the area has not been active in the decision making process. It is important to educate them about how imperative their participation is. The chief of police have been supportive of CLAC in Austin. Rebeca Sedarski is planning to go to St. James tomorrow and anticipates that it will be more successful.</p> <p>The business plan for the early childhood education project is on its way. The students at the Minnesota School of Business are creating the business plan. Senator Nelson discussed this with the students.</p> <p>CLAC is supporting the Southern Minnesota Latino Summit which is scheduled for September 10th in Mankato. ED Garcia mentioned that the Dean of UCLA will be coming to Rochester on September 18. He believes that the Rochester Project could combine well with an ongoing project in Cincinnati. This is a significant development in the Rochester Project. More details will be provided at a later time.</p> <p>BM Suyapa Miranda asks if the reason that the benefits aren't reaching the community is a lack of engagement and promotion. She has not heard about programming opportunities in the community besides CLAC.</p>		
Strategic Planning Session	<p>BM Peter Reyes excused himself from the rest of the meeting. Before leaving, he mentioned that CLAC needs to identify its stakeholders, one of which is the community. It is important to make sure that CLAC has a voice at the table of the decision makers and help</p>		

	<p>make a difference. The Latino community is capable of making significant lasting and positive change.</p> <p>Marsha Avner encouraged CLAC members to participate in a mapping exercise, in which members split into groups and look at a map in Minnesota and to map out how the state can change through CLAC's efforts. It is imperative that members position CLAC in a strategic position as possible. BM Krystell Escobar is asked to help facilitate this exercise. The board and staff members were split into small groups. They are asked to sketch and draw pictures on the maps. Group discussions ensued. The completed maps/documents were given to Marsha Avner.</p>		
Treasurer's Report	<p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon presented the Treasurer's report. All accounts for fiscal year 2014 have been closed and all in voices have been paid out. A detailed report was presented on what was spent and what was budgeted in the previous year. A surplus of \$3,362.04 will be carried over into this year's budget.</p> <p>The projected expenses for the upcoming fiscal year 2015 including encumbered payments, and salaries were presented. A buffer of \$18,132 will be left over for equipment and to cover other expenses for this year. CLAC's lease expires in June 2015, and it will not be renewed. CLAC will move its current office in June of 2015, which will be another potential expense. Office Manager Gladys Rodríguez anticipates the move will end up costing about \$6,000. This leaves \$10,000 that is flexible for spending. Board members debated requesting additional appropriations from the state.</p>		
Discussion of Annual Report	<p>CLAC's annual report to the Governor and Legislature is due on November 15. Chairwoman Krystell Escobar discussed how to truly communicate the value of CLAC's work and how they are effectively utilizing their budget. The proposed table of contents was distributed. ED Garcia talked about the importance of portraying the measurable outcomes of CLAC's work.</p> <p>BM Kandace Creel-Falcon suggested that CLAC utilizes the magazine format to point out a specific goal that CLAC has and/or accomplished in each of the five sections they work on. This would help the reader connect what issues CLAC addressed and how those goals were met visually. Chairwoman Krystell Escobar comments that it is important to highlight that Minnesota is doing well compared to other states that don't have CLAC. Raising awareness for the achievement gap has been a central goal for CLAC. In the future, BM Jesús Villaseñor suggested taking pictures of community members who have attended community forums and interviewing them. There would be a quantitative list of CLAC's alliances, accomplishments, contributions, etc. as well as a qualitative list of how the organization has impacted the community.</p>	← Motion passed	

	<p>BM Jesús Villaseñor motions to approve the outline of the draft of the 2014 Annual Report. BM Margaret Villanueva seconds. All in favor.</p> <p>The date of Saturday, October 11, is suggested for the board retreat for Strategic Planning and review the draft of the annual report. This date does not work for several people, so it could be moved to a weekday. Friday, October 3 is suggested as an alternative date. October 18 would also work for most people.</p>		
Legislative Reports	<p>November 4, 2014 is the date of general elections. All of the 134 House members will be re-elected. Bills passed from the last session must be moved into an implementation phase – budgeting must be kept track of for these projects.</p> <p>CLAC is narrowing its Legislative scope so it can champion more specific things. Elyse Ruiz, Legislative and Community Relations Manager, presented what CLAC’s priority legislation should be for 2015. Priority legislation denotes CLAC will apply major focus on bills considered a priority such as Driver’s Licenses for undocumented, HOME Bill – funding increase, LEAPS Act (ELL) – monitoring efforts to roll back this nation-leading race equity education legislation, and CLAC Board extension of non-voting members from state agencies (i.e. DEED, MDHR, DOC, etc.), and possibly requesting an appropriation for the Rochester Project.</p> <p>This works includes assisting authors, doing research, working with invested partners, providing testimony and identifying community & expert testifiers, attending committee hearings, updating community members and partners.</p> <p>Community forums are broken up into three parts: 1) introduction to CLAC, 2) Legislative debrief, and 3) Voter education.</p>		
Wrap-up and adjournment	<p>BM Michael Muñoz motions to adjourn. BM Luisa Pierce seconds. All in favor.</p>		

*Prepared by Rochester’s intern Neehar Banerjee, and Rebeca Sedarski, Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator.
Revised and edited by Gladys Rodriguez, Office Manager.*