



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
August 29, 2011
11:30am – 1:30pm
Oregon Advocacy Commission Office
Rm. 308 U, 527 SW Hall St.
Portland, OR 97201

ATTENDEES

Chair: Andrea Cano
Vice Chair: John Haroldson (by phone)
Commissioners: Gilbert Carrasco, Lupita Maurer, Marcela Mendoza (all by phone)
Guests: Frank Garcia, Jr., Director of the Office of Inclusion and Diversity
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Cano called the meeting to order at 11:37am.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion (Haroldson/Mendoza): To approve the agenda. Carried.

III. Approval of the minutes

Motion (Maurer/Mendoza): To approve the minutes of 6/29/11 as amended. Carried.

Corrections:

Commissioner Mendoza is also working with intern Rolando Cruz.

ACTION: Vice Chair Haroldson will come up with the wording to accurately express his trepidation about accepting the Vice Chair position.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Cano reported on a number of items, which generated discussion. These items included:

Chair Cano worked with Former Chair Ibarra to transition into her new position, and completed an orientation with Administrator Lucy Baker. She has also been meeting with different officials and community members as she settles in to her new role as Chair.

Frank Garcia, Jr., Director of the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, apologized about the proclamation that was issued by the Communications Office in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. In the future OCHA will be consulted in advance of any future proclamations being issued that pertain to Hispanic affairs.

Concern was expressed that Governor Kitzhaber is not consulting with OCHA on relevant issues. Others felt that Governor Kitzhaber is a supporter of OCHA: he included the Commissions in the current State budget; a member of the Executive Office, Frank Garcia, Jr., is attending today's OCHA meeting; Chair Cano and Commissioner Carrasco were included in the immigrant driver's permit discussion later today.

Vice Chair Haroldson will be honored at the Latino Heritage Night dinner, Commissioner Mendoza's event in Eugene, on Friday, September 30th.

The Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off breakfast is Thursday, September 15th, in Salem.

With the departure of Jose Ibarra and Steve Bender from the OCHA, there are now 3 open spaces on the Commission (Dagoberto Morales Moran's seat is now also vacant.) Probable new members, briefly, are:

- Mr. Carlos Perez is current President of the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators (OALA);
- Mr. Santiago Ventura Morales, who represents the indigenous community and endured being wrongly imprisoned in a landmark legal case.
- Mr. Alberto Moreno, who is very involved with a number of Hispanic organizations, is anticipated to fill the 3rd opening.

Although OCHA does not have any committees to date, there are plans to have committees in the future.

Representative Ben Cannon was selected to be a member of the Oregon Education Reinvestment Board and has stepped down from OCHA. Representative Chris Harker may replace Rep. Cannon, but this is not yet confirmed.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Carrasco and the Mural project: A grant was secured from the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) for artist Esteban Comacho to paint a mural of Cesar E. Chavez on Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard (formerly 39th Avenue). The award of \$5,000 was contingent on fundraising an equal amount. The last update on the project was that Esteban Comacho had not found a suitable site on CEC Blvd for the mural.

Commissioners Bender, Carrasco and Parker were to take on the fundraising; however, progress was minimal.

ACTION: Commissioner Carrasco will initiate a follow-up discussion with Commissioner Parker and renew contact with Esteban Comacho. He will report on any updates to this project.

Commissioner Maurer and Prospective Commissioner: Commissioner Maurer spoke with House Representative Harker about OCHA, and he was interested. Representative Harker is a supporter of the Tuition Equity Bill.

ACTION: Commissioner Maurer will continue the discussion with Rep. Harker.

VI. Administrator's Report

Internships: Lucy Baker is working with the Portland State University (PSU) Graduate School of Education, specifically Assistant Dean of Students Pat Burk, to develop new internship opportunities.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will invite the Commission Chairs and legislators to meet with Pat Burk to discuss internships. She will also work with the Chairs to develop legislative concepts for internships.

Lucy Baker will also meet with Danny Santos, now Associate Dean for Students at Willamette University, about internship opportunities there.

Partnerships: Last year OCHA partnered with CAUSA. This year there is interest in formalizing the partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding. Activities will include a joint legislative day and tracking legislative updates with software.

Key Performance Measures survey: A draft of this survey will be sent out to all Commissioners for their review this week.

Budget Update: Lucy Baker is waiting for the line-by-line budget from DAS Accounting. She will be organizing a Joint Financial Committee to manage the Commissions' finances.

Governor's 10-Year Plan: Michael Jordan is the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) of DAS. All State agencies now report to him. The Administration wants the Commissions to serve as an advisory group for the 10-Year Plan. Lucy Baker met with Sarah Miller and is confident the Commissions are on her radar.

Website Update: Executive Assistant Nancy Kramer's goal for the website is to keep the information more up-to-date than in the past.

VII. Office of the Governor's Report

Frank Garcia, Jr., Director, Diversity and Inclusion, discussed 5 issues:

1. The Governor's Agenda – The focus is on jobs, education and healthcare. Oregon is not in a better situation yet; it is going to take time to see real improvement.

2. Revenue Forecast – He is asking agency heads to watch the budget as money is still extremely tight. The next financial forecast is in February.
3. The Governor’s 10 Year Plan – The mission is to get Oregon back on its feet, with the focus on jobs, education and healthcare. All agencies are now under the Chief Operating Officer, Michael Jordan and accountable to him.
4. Diversity and Inclusion – Although it is built on the legacy of Affirmative Action, Diversity and Inclusion is focused on problem-solving and welcoming diverse perspectives. They will move away from minimums and work towards innovation, with an appreciation of diverse perspectives.
On August 3rd the heads of the 25 largest agencies with the biggest budgets assembled to create a new cabinet. Cheryl Myers, Director of Economic and Business Equity and Frank Garcia, Jr., are managing this new cabinet, which meets every other month. The focus is on what Oregon will look like in 4 years.
5. Driver’s License Restoration – A wide variety of perspectives has been assembled to review the current Driver’s License policy in regard to undocumented people being able to drive legally. Governor Kitzhaber wants an alternative common sense solution that allows undocumented people to drive, and plans to introduce a new bill in 2012. Public Safety departments and business people are key partners. Examples of allies included the Chiefs of Police, Association of Nurseries, Oregon Restaurants and Lodging, Dairy Farmers, Wine Growers Association.

The Commission thanked Frank Garcia, Jr., for his time.

VIII. Hispanic Heritage Month Activities and Award Recipient

The Hispanic Heritage Month breakfast started last year, with the support of the Hispanic Business Alliance of the Willamette Valley. There will be approximately 300 people in attendance on September 15th.

Motion (Carrasco/Haroldson): Select Jose Ibarra as the recipient of the award. Carried.

IX. October Meeting

It was agreed that OCHA wants to meet in Salem in February when the legislature is in session. Suggestions were also made to meeting around the state, in places such Hermiston and Malheur.

ACTION: Exec. Ass’t Nancy Kramer will send out an email so that everyone can weigh in on the next meeting date.

X. Framework for OCHA Advisory Committee

Chair Cano asked the Commissioners to consider what core values and criteria to use in establishing a framework for an Advisory Committee and to remember that this is a group decision.

XI. Adjourn

Motion (Carrasco/Haroldson): To adjourn the meeting. Carried.
The meeting ended at 1:04PM.