



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
Commission

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DRAFT

Chairperson

Ivette Servera

Vice Chair

Ramón L. Arroyo

Secretary

Pablo Rivera

Treasurer

Sonia P. Ayala

Commissioners:

Carlos E. Candal, Esq.

Manuel García

Enrique Marcano, Sr.

Luis A. Menéndez

Alcides Ortíz

Juan M. Perez

Ed Rodríguez

Norma Rodríguez Reyes

Maritza Tirú

Acting Executive Director,

Lina Lorenzi, Esq.

Special Projects

Coordinator and

Grants Writer

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Principal Leg. Analyst

Werner Oyanadel

Public Info Officer

Karlo X. Ruíz

Senior Leg. Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Commission Meeting
April 15, 2009
Legislative Office Building
Room 2600
5:50 pm

Commissioners Present: Ramón L. Arroyo, Sonia P. Ayala, Carlos E. Candal, Enrique Marcano, Sr., Luis Menéndez, Juan M. Pérez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes, Pablo Rivera, and Ivette Servera

Commissioners Absent: Manuel García, Alcides Ortíz, Ed Rodríguez and Maritza Tirú

Staff: Lina Lorenzi, Acting Executive Director
Lucía Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Coordinator and Grants Writer,
Werner Oyanadel, Principal Legislative Analyst
Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary

Tape 1A

Chair Servera asked Secretary Pablo Rivera to do the roll call. Quorum was established.

Commissioner Menéndez asked if our new Commissioner can present himself to everyone. After his presentation, all Commissioners presented themselves to him.

Public Participation:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of March 18, 2009 by Commissioner Perez and seconded by Commissioner Rivera.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rivera said that Mrs. Cardone and he have changed the motions to blue and if there are any changes made throughout the minutes, they will be in red.

Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Menéndez, Perez, Rivera & Rodríguez-Reyes

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Candal & Marcano, Sr.

4 Absent: Commissioners García, Ortíz, Rodríguez & Tirú

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner Ivette Servera, Chair proceeded to give her Chairperson's Report.

- 1) Both Commissioner Ayala and Chair Servera have met with the Lina Lorenzi, Esq., Acting Director, for their monthly meeting. The last month, before the end of the month, the E-Board met with her on the goals and expectations.
2) Chair Servera has been working in the last month talking to people, talking to agencies and going to events in order to regain the public trust.
3) Per Dana Crompton of the Office of Legislative Management, we move forward with our Retreat as the monies are there.

- 4) On Friday, April 17, 2009 we are going to Naugatuck Valley for the inauguration and ceremony of Dr. Daisy Cocco DeFilippis, Ph.D. as their President.
- 5) On Thursday, May 7, 2009 there is a Spring Fling with all Legislators. We will send an email on this.
- 6) Next week is Administrative Assistant's Day and we are planning to take Mrs. Cardone out on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 at lunchtime.
- 7) Last year we gave a plaque to the Hartford Lion's Club and one of their former Presidents passed away. Chair Servera brought a card for everyone to sign and both Mrs. Cardone and she will be attending the wake.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. gave a verbal report on the following:

- 1) There was a very successful meeting with Representative Urban on the RBA. Because of that meeting, we have been granted \$9,000 for our own consultant to go forward with the RBA process and to then create a report that would be comparable so we can testify.
- 2) Mrs. Lorenzi just came back from a three day conference in Washington, D.C. called "Latinos & Education in the United States". It was comprised of Executive Directors around the country in various commissions. They provided us with a lot of materials. They have formed an organization called "The United States Council of Latino Affairs" and have asked the LPRAC sign a memorandum of understanding to be part of that. A few people approach her asking what has happened to LPRAC. Years ago, we used to be active with outside organizations and for the past two years they haven't been receiving any responses to their events.
- 3) In the office, she has been working on individual staff meetings on a weekly basis, reviewing job descriptions, goals in the areas of concentration. We have a big push to apply for grants.
- 4) Staff is going to go out more representing LPRAC by attending as many events as possible to be part of our goal to be out in the community more.

Motion made to approve the Executive Director's Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera.

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo asked why the Public Info. Officer, Karlo Ruiz is not here.

Chair Servera explained that because his wife is ill, and he had to take care of their baby.

Commissioner Perez asked if there is a membership fee to join The United States Council of Latino Affairs.

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. said that she will check on this.

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. asked if staff is going out to the community.

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. answered that we are going to start.

Chair Servera announced that it is in the Marketing Plan.

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. said that Mr. Ruiz is working on a brochure in Spanish and English to bring to different functions.

Chair Servera said that there is a Forum planned in Bridgeport in July.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to amend the Agenda to take a vote for vacancy on the Board by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to nominate Commissioner Arroyo for the position of Vice Chair by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to close the nominations by Commissioner Menéndez and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made that the Secretary cast the ballot for Ramón L. Arroyo as Vice Chair for LPRAC by Commissioner Norma Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Perez. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Arroyo thanked everyone for their confidence in him.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes asked if the By-Laws stipulate that upon a vacancy, the Vice Chair becomes the Chair, or do we have to ratify this tonight?

Chair Servera responded that LPRAC's By-Laws are unclear.

Motion made to ratify Commissioner Servera for the position of Chair by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Servera announced that Commissioner Ortiz, Chair of the By-Laws Committee is not present but Commissioner Arroyo can update everyone as he serves on the By-Laws Committee.

Commissioner Arroyo said that the committee put forward amended by-laws with the assistance of the staff person, Mr. Oyanadel. Anything in Blue is something that has to be added and in Red is going to be deleted.

Motion made to approve all the items that were approved up to Line 143 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Menéndez. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to accept the By-Laws with completion and changes by Commissioner Menéndez and seconded by Commissioners Rivera and Ayala. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve the By-Laws by Commissioner Candal and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes. Motion approved unanimously.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ayala announced that LPRAC has been cut 20% (\$131,000 + change).

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. spoke of the starting salary for the new Executive Director is at \$99,000. For the years 2010 & 2011, staff will not be receiving an increase or COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment).

Tape 1B

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. announced that the money for the contracts to fix our equipment is still there. They took the money that we have in our regular budget and placed it in a separate grant account, \$60,000. In Mr. Oyanadel's report, you will see the new amount for LPRAC's budget.

Commissioner Ayala reminded everyone that you have one month to submit your mileage. She is working on a different sheet to make it more clear when, how and why to get a clearer picture of what the mileage reflects. That is something for our Budget Committee. She is looking at the form that OLM did so that it's explicit enough. She wants a two-part form so that you can keep a copy. There's an action item for a book for which Mr. Oyanadel has info.

Mr. Oyanadel said that the University of CT needs \$5,000 seed money to publish this book.

Commissioner Arroyo said that it seems like a lot of money for a book. We could use this towards scholarships. What is LPRAC going to benefit with this?

Mr. Oyanadel said that it will cover topics ranging from politics, education, discrimination, race, relations and levels of integration and acculturation just to mention a few.

Motion made to approve the Budget Committee Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera.

Discussion:

Commissioner Perez asked Mr. Oyanadel if he feels this book would really help in his job.

Mr. Oyanadel said yes.

Commissioner Perez also mentioned that Shipman & Goodwin does not work with immigrants nor do they charge a reasonable amount. We, as a board, should ask to have a law firm that is not as anti-labor as them.

Chair Servera said that it is the law first that Legislative Management uses. They have been working on the issue for the former Executive Director, Fernando Betancourt and we are almost over this issue and that we should wait on this.

Commissioner Arroyo said that every year, Legislative Management sends out an RFP and the lowest bidder gets the job. He agrees with Commissioner Perez and so far we have had no input on this, maybe we can talk to D'Ann Mazzocca, Executive Director of Legislative Management, and see if we can leverage something on this.

Commissioner Menéndez said that we can look to see if the bids have any minority participation and minority employment.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. said that he is in agreement with Mr. Oyanadel's study. His concern is that he wants to make sure it gets used, like Representative Andres Ayala said, we prepare studies and the Latino community gets less than 10% of the budget. He wants it to go all the way to the Governor's office to the budget committee for the legislators and want them to use it to get us money.

Mr. Oyanadel said that normally, to write these reports, it costs \$60,000.

Commissioner Ayala mentioned that all Commissions use Shipman & Goodwin and we should talk to other commissions and get their support.

Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. mentioned that we have a Line Item called Printing and Binding and we have \$5,000 allotted to that. Also, LPRAC has 1 publication, the Socio-Economic Study. One goal she has is that we should have a library of publications.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve giving \$1,500 for the publication of the Socio-Economic Study on Latinos book by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ayala said that they have been working this month on the 2008 final gala report which has not been accepted by the Office of Fiscal Analysis & Mr. Crompton. There were letters sent to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández that she didn't know were sent and found out about it last month. She questioned Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández on this. We are not following the procedures that we set. We are given timelines for selling the tickets and yet tickets were still sold after the last day. Policies and procedures are not adhered to. This year, Mr. Crompton sent out a 3 or 4 page letter to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández questioning tickets with different issues. She was really concerned and asked Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández to answer them. We are going to look at every ticket that was purchased then. She asked for the ITS scanning and received two reports. One that shows all the people who have paid and attended, the other one with all the people that have paid and not attended. The list came back and about 367 people that paid appear as not having attended, or was it that they were not scanned. Special Projects members have developed new policies and procedures and then sent them to Commissioner Garcia for review in the Personnel and Procedures Committee. Mr. Crompton sent another letter back about the same size as the first request. We were asked to give back monies from the Gala acct. because they were being considered non-appropriated funds. Mr. Crompton suggested that we use some of this money for scholarship funds. We also came up with the idea of not using the returned tickets. We'd also like to do a Tribute to Hispanic Veterans on either May 14th or 28th, 2009. We already have a sponsor.

Commissioner Menéndez left at 7:05 p.m. Quorum is still in place.

Commissioner Arroyo announced that he feels that we should have a Gala for 2009. We use OLM for guidance but we as a Commission have the authority that if we want to have the Gala, we should be able to have one. We should start to recognize people that are well known in our community. He also believes that big entertainment brings lots of people.

Tape 2A

Commissioner Arroyo (cont.) mentioned that we do have corporate sponsors that give us back tickets and he doesn't think that we should use these tickets as they save us monies for scholarships.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to divide GALA Funds \$40,000 using \$30,000 for scholarships for 2009 with 60% of proceeds for new Gala by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve that \$30,000 be given to 20 students and at least six GPA's at 2.5 and above by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Candal, Marcano, Sr., Rivera & Rodríguez Reyes

1 Abstention: Commissioner Perez

4 Absent: Commissioners García, Ortíz, Rodríguez & Tirú.

Motion made to approve having a Tribute to Hispanic Veterans (which we have a sponsor at this time) by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel said that there was no quorum at this month's meeting and Commissioner Rodríguez said that he would like to have more participation of the Board on this sub-committee.

PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT

As there has been no meeting, there is no report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Servera mentioned a few items as follows:

- 1) A Marketing Plan that was given to everyone in December 2008, but having meetings with different levels of people and with working on the appropriations, they would like to amend the Marketing Plan that we all work more with the Latino State Representatives.
- 2) On the Newsletters, she would like to recommend taking a corner and dedicate it to the Latino State Reps. We could highlight an event that they are working on and what we're working with them too. Acting Exec. Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. is also working closely with some of them and soon with all of them.

Commissioner Rivera asked if we can also add the highlights on our website too.

Commissioner Perez asked why links to the Latino State Reps. on our website are not there.

Chair Servera announced the because of working on the Appropriations, Karlo has not been able to work on websites. We're also working on updating the database.

Motion made to approve the amendments to the Marketing Plan by Commissioners Rodríguez and Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. announced that on the East Haven matter, there has been Press on this involvement. It's a nationwide issue. The reason that we're so heavily involved in this particular matter with the hopes down the road of getting new

legislation on the matter. There is a lot of coverage because of the arrest of the priest. Its' a good opportunity for LPRAC to be out on this issue with the work of the State Representative, wind up with some legislation that will affect the entire state.

Chair Servera mentioned that Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. would be working on all of this and if there's a Press Conference, we will all have to go to it.

Commissioner Norma Rodríguez Reyes left at 7:53 p.m. Quorum was lost.

Chair Servera said that we need a date for the LPRAC Retreat.

Commissioner Rivera said that we have a place. We just need to call Commissioner Tirú to see if we can go back to Daisy Cocco DeFillipis, PH.D. She already allocated money for the food. Chair Servera should call Commissioner Tirú for a Monday in June and email everyone. He then mentioned that we have to talk about next month's Commission meeting to be held in Bridgeport.

Commissioner Arroyo said that we should do Forums for this, not regular monthly meeting. You also have to report to the Secretary of State letting them know this change in location.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. said that this is a good idea to go around to different town for more visibility.

Tape 2B

Chair Servera said that we should go to Bridgeport in May as June is end of session and we should not leave the area.

Commissioner Rivera said that we need to talk about "Past Chair", former Commissioner Alvarez. Right now it shows Commissioner García. Usually a past chair is someone that is still in our Commission.

Commissioner Arroyo said usually a past chair stays in the Commission. We should eliminate "Past Chair", the whole word.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Commissioner Pablo Rivera
Secretary to the Board

PR:cjc