



State of Connecticut

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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Chairperson
Carlos Alvarez
Vice Chair
Ivette Servera
Secretary
Pablo Rivera
Treasurer
Sonia P. Ayala

Past Chair
Manuel García

Commissioners:
Ramón L. Arroyo
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. Ruiz

Senior Leg. Secretary
Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES

LPRAC Commission Meeting

February 23, 2009
Legislative Office Building
Room 2600
5:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Carlos Alvarez, Ramón L. Arroyo, Sonia P. Ayala, Alcides Ortiz, Juan M. Pérez, Pablo Rivera, and Ivette Servera

Commissioners on telephone conference: Manuel García, Ed Rodríguez and Norma Rodríguez Reyes

Commissioners Absent: Enrique Marcano, Sr., Luis Menéndez and Maritza Tirú

Staff: Lina Lorenzi, Esq., Acting Executive Director
Werner Oyanadel, Principal Legislative Analyst
Karlo Ruiz, Public Information Officer
Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary
Maribel Franco, Intern
Marcia García, Intern

Tape 1A

Public Participation:
None.

Chairman Alvarez asked **Secretary Commissioner Pablo Rivera** to do the roll call. Mrs. Cardone conf. called Commissioner García and Mrs. García said that an emergency came up and he had to leave. Quorum was established. He then thanked Commissioner Perez for the new idea of our packets and for the work of Mrs. Cardone and the interns.

Commissioner Ayala came in at 5:41 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo said that he did not attend the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Reception.

Mr. Oyanadel responded that they were on the 2nd floor of the LOB reception area, and then Commissioner Alvarez agreed that they were there.

Commissioner Rivera said that the minutes should be changed on page 3, first item of the Chairperson/Executive Director's Report from "spoke" to "attended".

Motion approved unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Chairman Alvarez spoke on the following:

1. We had good participation at LPRAC's Latino Emergency Action Network conference.
2. Also, we received a response from Dennis J. King, Chairperson of the State of CT Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday commission in reference to Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes' letter on speaking at Dr. Martin Luther King's event this year.

3. Announced that the Governor appointed both Commissioner Rodriguez and himself to the CT Small Business Advisory Council.
4. He also asked that the Board nominate a new Interim Executive Director as he can no longer serve in this position due to his family obligations and his businesses.
5. He then mentioned that he has something for the Old & New Business and since he has to leave, he will bring it up now. He's been working on a new Health Bill, like the one he did for WIC. He and his staff are working on it but he wanted to see if LPRAC wants to take part in it too.

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

Discussion:

Commissioner Servera said that there is a process on how we get appointed to the Commission and we found out today that this information never came to the Board and you failed to do that.

Chairman Alvarez responded that there is a process in our By-Laws but it is only for "Paid Appointments".

Commissioner Arroyo asked if it is Resolution 99-1.

Chairman Alvarez said yes, on the 2nd page 1st line. He said that we should work on a process for the future.

Commissioner Arroyo opposed the process to make that determination. In Old and New Business, he said he has a statement that he has to make.

Chairman Alvarez also mentioned that a second request was made from Mr. Dana Crompton of the Office of Legislative Management to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández for the final count for LPRAC's Gala 2008.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to relieve the Chairperson from the duties as Acting Executive Director of LPRAC, requested by the Chair, and to appoint an acting Director from the Staff until an Executive Director is hired by Commissioner Ortiz and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion carries as follows:

5 yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Ortiz, Rivera and Servera

2 Nos: Commissioners Perez and Rodríguez

Chairman Alvarez left at 6:10 p.m.

Motion made to select from the Staff an Acting Executive Director by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Tape 1B

Commissioner Ortiz nominated Mr. Oyanadel.

Commissioner Arroyo nominated Mrs. Lorenzi, Esq.

Commissioner Rodríguez announced that he had to leave too at 6:15 p.m.

Commissioner García called and asked to be connected at 6:22 p.m.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes called and asked to be connected at 6:25 p.m.

Both Mr. Oyanadel and Mrs. Lorenzi, Esq. were asked to give a statement if they've had previous supervisory experience.

Motion carries as follows to assign Mrs. Lorenzi, Esq. as Acting Executive Director of LPRAC:

5 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, García, Ortiz and Rodríguez Reyes

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Perez and Rivera

Discussion:

Commissioner Ayala then mentioned that we should start the search for the new Executive Director. She wants to be able to bring this up at the Executive Committee to appoint a Chair for this search.

Commissioner Servera said that both she and Chairman Alvarez met with Jim Tracy and he said that we need to establish a process as to what kind of panel, how many people, who are going to be these people, who is going to be the Chairperson, what is going to be the final process of the selection of this person.

Commissioner Ayala mentioned that we should find out now how many Commissioners are interested now in being part of that nomination committee to push that forward.

Commissioner Servera requested that if anyone is interested, that they email Mrs. Cardone telling her that you are interested in being part of that committee.

Commissioner Ortiz suggested that before the Committee establishes what type of criteria are going to be required for the Director of this Commission, there are some legal issues and we have to make sure the requirements are legally met. We should check with our attorney.

Commissioner Rivera said that he agrees with Commissioner Ortiz but also the old specs for each job of LPRAC staff have been reviewed last year and new specs are in Jim Tracy's office.

The following Commissioners showed interest in being part of the nomination committee for the executive search for the Executive Director:

Commissioners Arroyo, Rodríguez Reyes, Ortiz, Rivera and García.

Mrs. Lorenzi thanked everyone for the honor and opportunity of being the Acting Director.

Commissioner Ortiz mentioned that we should alert the media that we have decided to take this step.

Commissioner Servera said that they will check with the Chairman.

Commissioner García left at 6:55 p.m.

Quorum was lost.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Perez said that the meeting was cancelled due to the emergency meeting that LPRAC held on Monday, February 9th, 2009.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rivera asked that we table the report since there was no meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Servera reminded everyone of LPRAC's Commissioners/Staff Retreat to be held on Monday, March 2, 2009. The agenda and directions are in everyone's packets. If you have any suggestions, please email her. She discussed with Mrs. Cardone the lunch for that day, it will be provided by the college. We are to bring the coffee and donuts in the morning she will bring the sodas. If we all donate a few dollars, we can pick them up before we get there.

Tape 2 A

Mr. Ruiz said that the committee has not met this month. We have gotten good coverage in the papers for our event a couple of weeks ago. We'll also have good coverage for this Wednesday's event. The Talent Bank was transferred from an old system, the attached reports gives you many names. The ones in red with none on the bottom means the old system. If anyone knows of any other changes, please let us now. Commissioner Servera has an idea of a short list and a long list.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ayala, Treasurer brought several points:

1. She spoke to Dana Crompton to see what things we can cut in the budget. He said that there should be some sort of policy on not letting the mileage accumulate more than one month.
2. She asked everyone to let her know if they have any other ideas to cut the expenses.
3. In regards to the Legislative Reception on Wed., Feb. 25th, in discussing the music, there are three choices:
 - I. Whether the musicians can donate their services;

- II. That we find an outside person to sponsor the music and
 - III. Have no music at all.
- Since the first of the two did not come through so we will have no music there.

Commissioner Arroyo asked if Dana Crompton wants the travel expenses once a month or every two months etc.

Commissioner Perez said that when he started with LPRAC, he was told they should be done on a monthly basis.

PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ortiz reminded everyone that there will be a meeting on Monday, 3-9-09.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Ayala has two issues:

1. She received a letter from an inmate at Cheshire. She had a conversation with Mr. Oyanadel about these letters that come from the correctional institute. She said that we should have a standard letter to respond to them.
2. She was contacted by someone at the WIC office. There is a problem at CCMC with children getting their vaccinations. This had improved with Dr. Antonelli but now he has left and Dr. Catherine Whiley has taken over and it's back as it was. A lot of the WIC's have been held back because of the delay in appointments for the children to get their vaccines. We should get a meeting with several leaders and see what can be done.

Commissioner Arroyo said that he has a concern. He asked why Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández was not present. He thought that every staff should be there. He was told that she is sick. Also, he just received a letter from the House Majority Leader and was reappointed to the commission for two years.

Commissioner Perez said that he was looking through the websites of the AAAC, PCSW and other commissions, and they all have their minutes on there and a lot of actions that they've been doing. If we can put our things in the website that we have been doing, it'll look good.

Commissioner Servera said that Mr. Ruiz has been working on updating the website and this is a good idea.

Commissioner Ortiz suggested that Mr. Ruiz do some research and some exploring and put a few proposals and we'll take the best one.

Mr. Ruiz said that this is a mandate.

Commissioner Servera suggested that Commissioner Ayala the new Director get together with the people from CCMC and others to discuss the problem with the vaccinations.

Commissioner Ayala suggested that Mr. Oyanadel attend too.

Commissioner Arroyo said that he has a new issue, a public statement (2 pages) from himself but since Chairman Alvarez left, he would like to bring it to the next meeting.

Commissioner Perez said that it should be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Commissioner Rivera reminded everyone of the LPRAC Retreat at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Commissioner Servera reminded everyone that we will be having the LPRAC Legislative reception on Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 and for everyone to bring more guests.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Commissioner Pablo Rivera
Secretary to the Board

PR:cjc