

## COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

MINUTES 10-05-01

**Present:** Francisca Johnson, Nita Werner, Dovie Trevino, Lami Subia, Amanda Vallejo, Senator Susan Castillo, Gabe Silva.

**Absent:** Trini Ortiz, Diego Castellanoz - resignations by Juan Ortegon and Victoria Barnhart

**Guest(s):** Efrain Diaz Sorio, Eve Ford, Gabriela Ricardi, and Genie Harlow

*Note: Information in italics are action items.*

**Welcome and Introductions:** All present, including the visitors listed above, introduced themselves for our meeting.

### **Presentations:**

Gabriela Ricardi of Las Artes de la Comunidad gave us a slide presentation about the project she is promoting. This project started in June of 2001 by means of a grant. This project is to benefit individuals and the community and the purpose of the project is to present the historical and cultural perspectives of Mexican American art in Oregon. Artists have already been featured at various art forums. Gabriela's hope is to build a statewide network for appreciation of art in the private and public sectors.

Eve Ford, Oregon Dispute Resolution Commission (ODRC), made a presentation about this Commission. She mentioned that ODRC received a Hewlett Grant for \$250,000 for a two-year project to deliver culturally appropriate dispute resolution services with and for the growing Hispanic/Latino population of Oregon. Although Dovie Trevino was invited to participate on the Hewlett Project Advisory Committee, her schedule prevents her from doing so. Francisca Leyva-Johnson and Amanda Vallejo were selected and approved for participation in this committee.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the Commission Retreat held in the month of August were accepted as presented.

### **Commissioner terms, extensions, commitment, and new applications:**

Juan Ortegon and Victoria Barnhart resigned from their Commissioner positions and applications were received from Jason Leon, Lucy Veliz and Argelia Whittington to join as commissioners. A discussion ensued regarding the potential Commission candidates and it was decided that with the exception of Argelia Whittington (who is extremely busy in the Medford area), the candidates should be interviewed in person or via conference call. The Commission's Executive Committee (Francisca, Dovie, Lami, Susan and Gabe) were asked to perform the interviews.

**Commission Budget:**

No budget was presented at this meeting because Nancy Mussman of DAS' Shared Client Services section had not completed the allotment plan for the Commission. The allotment plan was needed in order to know what the starting balance was for the first quarter (an itemized budget was forwarded to the Commissioners in the latter part of October and approval of the budget will be considered at our meeting scheduled on November 30, 2001).

**Citizen Complaints and Complaint Form:**

Gabe gave an update about the complaints that had been previously presented.

- 1) Linda Ringo Vs. Silverton Police - a closing letter was sent to Mrs. Rincon
- 2) Adrian Chacon Vs. State Judicial System - Contact was made with Mr. Chacon's attorney  
Along with a closing letter subsequent to our meeting.
- 3) Angela Polito - regarding unfair treatment of disabled persons - referral to Disabilities Comm.
- 4) Latinos Unidos Siempre Vs. Greyhound Bus Lines - Mano a Mano handled, no action
- 5) Serafin Garcia - unfair awards of firefighting contracts - Contact was made with Lynn of USDA Forest Service and Monte Bell. Both stated that fire-fighting awards are awarded to "closest-cheapest" and based on the crew dispatch location.

**Commissioner Participation in Committee/Functions and/or Invitations Form:**

Gabe provided a listing of the committees all the Commissioners are currently participating in (those who filled them out). This form has been developed electronically as well so that the information can be input monthly and on-going totals generated throughout the year.

**Commission Contact Form:**

This form will also be used to keep track of the number of contacts received at the Commission office per month, and contacts received by Commissioners. This form has also been developed electronically so that the information can be input monthly and on-going totals generated throughout the year.

Gabe reminded everyone how important the completion of these forms is so that he can add that information to the **Impacts and Outreach** document where he will keep running totals of all the events the Commissioners participate in, the committee meetings attended, number of contacts per month, etc.

**Spanish Class Updates**

The committee was updated about the current status of our Spanish classes.

We ended with one class only and the majority of the students were from the City of Salem offices. Classes will be advertised for the fall class session beginning in mid-October.

**Membership Handbook for Boards and Commissions:**

Gabe provided a copy of the membership handbook so that the Commissioners are aware of their purpose and responsibilities.

**Commission/Board Vacancy Reports:**

Gabe provided a copy of the vacancy reports so that Commissioners can inform individuals in their geographical area about participating as a Commissioner or Board member.

**The Commission Display Board:** was completed and displayed. The Commission flyer is close to being completed. The flyer content will include information reflective of the Commission Business Plan.

**House Appointment for the Commission Membership**

Gabe informed that he has sent a letter and e-mails requesting a representative be appointed to the Commission and he has not received a response yet (contact was received in the beginning of November regarding this appointment).

**Commission Business Plan and Commission Goals:**

The Commission Business Plan was again reviewed by the Commission membership. Many of the original goals have been completed and so we are now in the process of updating the plan. Nita Werner will create a new draft and forward it to the Commission membership.

**Latino Youth Project Survey:** Francisca provided the Commission membership with a copy of the report completed by the Oregon Social Learning Center, Oregon Prevention Research Center Research Team. She informed us that the conference went very well and that she and Senator Castillo handed out award certificates to some of the students who participated in the survey or who attended the conference.

**Discussion about meeting days and times:** A discussion ensued regarding having Commission meetings on Fridays or going back to the all-day Saturday meeting format. After discussion, it was decided that we continue to meet on Fridays as previously done and that a subcommittee plan Saturday meetings once per quarter. This way we can take care of Commission matters on our normally scheduled Friday meetings and we can invite the community to be participate on Saturday meetings. The subcommittee members are Dovie, Lami and Francisca.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 noon.**

**Next Meeting Date: November 30, 2001**

The next meeting of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs will be held on Friday November the 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the Labor and Industries Building, Room 200; 350 Winter St. NE, Salem.

**Please note:** If you are not able to attend this meeting, please let Gabe know if you will need to participate via telephone conference call.

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Gabe Silva, Executive Director

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Francisca Leyva-Johnson, Chair