

## COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

MINUTES 1-25-02

**Present:** Francisca Leyva-Johnson, Jason Leon, Amanda Vallejo, Diego Castellanoz, Nita Werner and Lucy Veliz (conference call), Gabe Silva.

**Absent:** Trini Ortiz, Dovie Trevino, Senator Castillo

**Guest(s):** Rigoberto Hernandez, Director of Flor y Canto

*Note: Information in italics is action items.*

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

### **Presentations:**

Rigoberto Hernandez delivered a presentation about Flor y Canto, Instituto de Cultura y Arte that he directs. The philosophy of this institute is: Our belief that education, knowledge of communal history, culture and arts will help Chicano/Mexican/Latino youth and communities develop a cultural voice, a cultural space, and a sense of identity and pride. Armed with these tools, individuals will be better prepared to move into leadership position in their communities. By applying the basic tenants of Mexican/Indigenous Philosophy (respect, education, discipline, family, community and leadership), Mexican/Latinos can begin to exert the self-determination necessary for forging a productive and positive future for themselves and future generation.

Mr. Hernandez presented, via power point and video, examples of the dance and art components of the institute. When asked how this institute would incorporate Latinos of other nationalities into this effort, he stated that they have joined on occasion with groups from other South American countries to deliver musical and artistic presentation.

Mr. Hernandez requests that the Commission support their efforts in written form. They would like to be viewed as the authorities on Mexican culture and art and would like our support to work as consultants about Mexican culture and art throughout Oregon

*The Commission members were forwarded a copy of the information, mission, philosophy and History of the institute and Commission members will be deciding on whether or not to formally support this effort.*

**Minutes:** Minutes for the November 30, 2002 meeting were approved and signed as presented with two minor changes. In the Cultural Competency section, "profiling" of citizens was also the main focus. In the Immigration and Naturalization Service section, Ed Sail's name should be spelled "Sale".

### **Commission Budget:**

The allotment for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 2001 biennium was 15,177 minus expenses of 5,994 the total balance available was 9,183.90. This amount was reported to have been forwarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the biennium. However, 2,679 was not deducted (the debt outstanding from the 2000/2001 biennium) from the 9,183.90. This change left a balance forwarded of 6,504.

The balance still available for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter at the time of our January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was 1,281 (not counting other fund monies).

A copy of the General Fund Appropriations for the month of November 2001 was presented to the Commissioners and it shows that the Commission General Fund budget is at a healthy "Average to Spend" per month of 2,524.94

### **Commission Flyer and Community Input Form**

Gabe provided copies of the new Commission flyers in both English and Spanish. He also explained the new Community Input Form. This is a form that is being passed out to the community and is listed on the Commission's new website. Community members can fill the form out supplying their input about the problems they face in their communities (problems that are not currently addressed by other state or community agencies) and their recommendation for legislation to address those concerns.

### **Commission Website**

Gabe provided a copy of the home page for our new Commission website. The website is now up and going and the Spanish home page is in the process of translation. Gabe mentioned the potential links that will be connected to the site and Francisca gave her permission for us to list the City of Eugene's website as a link.

Gabe also introduced Gabriela Idrobo who is one of our Commission volunteers. She has been working hard on translating our website and flyers into Spanish, locating potential links, etc.

### **Commission Presentation Update**

Gabe mentioned that he delivered a community presentation in the City of Medford on January the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dogoberto Morales and his wife Kathy were very helpful in setting this up. They had received various calls about injured workers in the Medford area and the Morales requested a presentation about Workers' Compensation information.

The number of attendees was approximately 20 and information was provided about the Commission, DCBS, BOLI and the Office for Injured workers.

### **Results of Audits Division audit and El Hispanic News article**

The Commissioners were informed about the results of the Audits Division audit. The report was received on January 3, 2002. Although we were prepared to present before the E-board for requesting our second year of funding, Steve Bender, our Legislative Coordinator, recommended that we hold off on making that presentation until April, 2002. The reason for that was that we did not want to be caught off guard if a representative or senator asked about our corrective measures in response to the audit. It would be very sensitive, for example, if some aspect had not yet been completed (i.e. our efforts thus far in collecting monies from the previous executive director).

### **E-Board Letter**

Gabe provided the Commissioners a copy of the letter he drafted with the assistance of Satish upadhyam of DAS, requesting that the E-board accept our presentation for appeal of funding for the second year of the biennium. As mentioned above, it was recommended that we request participation in the April, 2002 E-board session.

### **Department of Justice Letter**

The Commissioners were told about the letter that was drafted by DOJ and sent to Chris Williams. He had 10 days to respond and he obtained the assistance of an attorney. They are disputing the claim that monies are due and payable. A follow-up letter was also sent requesting repayment for ESL classes Chris' wife was contracted and paid to teach but at least two classes never occurred.

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

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.

Diego was great in providing his committee and community participation over the last month or so.

### **Spanish Class Update:**

Gabe mentioned the Spanish classes have come to a halt. Various reasons could have affected the participation in our classes: the loss of Luis Sarinana as instructor, September 11<sup>th</sup> disaster occurred two days prior to the start of one of our classes, a news release about the previous executive director came out two days prior to the beginning our latest class and the economical recession we are currently experiencing.

Although Dovie had mentioned she might be willing to teach a Spanish class at no charge, she recently stated she would wait until the adverse publicity about the previous executive director to decide if this is a possibility.

### **New Commission Applicants**

There are two applicants who applied for the Commission position that Lami Subia vacated. The applicants are Jose Manuel Munoz and Argelia Whittington. They both live in the Medford area and could cover the southern Oregon area for our Commission. The Commission members requested that these two applicants come to Salem to be interviewed for this vacant position.

**NOTE:** Since our meeting for the month of February was scheduled to be held in Medford, it was later decided that we interview these two candidates at Medford just prior to and just after our scheduled meeting. Jose Manuel will be interviewed at 2:30 PM and Argelia is scheduled to be interviewed at 4:30 PM.

### **Bimonthly Meetings:**

The Commissioners were asked if they would like to continue meeting monthly or if meetings should be held on a BI-monthly schedule. The decision made was to continue monthly meetings at this time because the Latino Youth Summit and other activities are coming up.

**Commission Roster:**

A new Commission Roster was provided to the committee members.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM.**

**Next Meeting Date: February 22, 2002 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.**

The next meeting of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs will be held on Friday, February 22, 2002, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the West Medford Family Center, 914 W. Main, Medford, Oregon.

**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