

Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2004, 10:30 a.m.
Minutes by Marisa Aguilar

I. Introductions

Hand Outs:

Board Retreat minutes
Driver's License Sub-Committee minutes
Executive Director Sub-Committee notes
Driver's license related information

- a. Call meeting – verify quorum
- b. Review minutes from Board Retreat (9/24), Driver's License Sub-Committee meeting (10/14)
 - i. No comments or questions. Save for next meeting

II. Commission Business:

- a. Representative John Aguilera, Chair
 - i. Discussion of the Reception and Board Retreat (9/23 – 9/24)
 1. John Aguilera: Retreat was a great success, reception was a great opportunity to network. Sal deserves a lot of credit for putting it together. Good turnout. We started session on Saturday morning, it lasted until 3 p.m. We had a good chance to cover a number of issues. Mr. Corona did an excellent job, we should send him a letter of thanks. There was much dialogue, recognizing that we have people from both parties.
 2. Mary Ilu Altman: Would like to recommend that we do it annually. Get to know commissioners and families. Good to be led by Steve Corona. We covered many issues.
 3. John Aguilera: We went through a long list of items that we brought to the table. We were close to unanimous on our direction. We had a couple of directions that we want to focus on for the community. Others? NO.
 - ii. Update on the process of hiring new Executive Director
 1. John Aguilera: New Executive Director. Amy Mendoza from Hammond. She's currently working for an agency, I don't know the name. Working on similar issues. There's a hot-button issue there right now, teachers in schools punishing students for speaking Spanish. We look forward to having her on board. That will happen on November 1, let's work with her and welcome her.

2. Mary Ilu Altman: Let's make sure that Amy really understands her job description before she starts.

iii. Update on Latino Summit

1. John Aguilera: There was discussion during the Retreat about the Latino Summit. The group came forward and asked us to consider taking over. We felt that we want to do it. We did make a commitment that we'd let them know that we intend to do that. We'll be working with those that are involved in moving forward for a transition. This is a good opportunity for this commission, a signature event to hang our hat, work on it in a gradual way so we can be successful, some members have been involved, idea is for it to sustain itself over time, as an event that people want to attend.
2. Juana Watson: We're just going to wait until they call us?
3. John Aguilera: No, I'll reach out to them in November, the letter went out already.
4. Mary Ilu Altman: Could we have a copy of the letter?
5. John Aguilera: Sure.

b. Juana Watson, Driver's License Sub-Committee

Juana Watson: Next date is November 4 at 2pm, see handouts about driver's license. There are 8 people on the Sub-Committee.

John Aguilera: We want to come up with a final report that would go to the legislature and the governor, to do in early January time frame, allowing us to get before the General Assembly and educate them. Some have asked to participate, for example, Dr. Chapa of Indiana University could work on it with his spring semester class. But, we need to get it done by January, so that class may not be able to do it since the class doesn't start until January.

Presentation by Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Representative, Dan Henkel, Executive Director of the Communication Department

Dan Henkel: Legislative liaison, Marilyn Cage, couldn't attend, there was a death in her family. I brought current BMV documentation requirements. We're looking at what other states are doing, summarize that. The BMV joins all states, and Canadian provinces, in a compact. It is necessary that all share to have verifiable identification of driver's license, individuals should have one driver's license only. Standardization is a strong movement, necessary for smooth coordination. Also, post-9/11 has...

John Aguilera: We need a brief testimony for Sub-Committee.

Dan Henkle: Executive Summary, Indiana Statute, National Governors Association and AAMVA.

States have various document requirements. All of this is up in the air pending legislation from the federal government based on the 9-11

Commission. Likely to be more standardized and restrictive from the federal government. Suggest that sub-committee follow developments in federal legislation, contemplate likely legislation. Just as you're finishing report, you may have to respond to federal legislation.

John Aguilera: Our concerns are state's rights and the impact on Hispanic community. Majority of Hispanic groups are absolutely against those items that impact Hispanic community. Senators Durban, Lieberman, Hatch, and others need to be addressed.

Pat Rios: Has there been any change in the Senate version? The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators has raised specific concerns.

Dan Henkle: I can't answer that. About Tennessee, there are concerns within the state because the driving document looks different and it's a discrimination issue. Also, there is concern in other states.

John Aguilera: But, it's not an identification, but a certificate to drive.

Dan Henkle: Everything is up in the air until the federal government acts.

Juana Watson: We're grateful to Lawrence and Marisa for their work on this issue.

John Aguilera: Lawrence is a real trooper, he's working for three other legislators, I'm thanking him for all his hard work.

Mary Ilu Altman: To Dan Henkle: It would be nice if you would join us in future meetings because this is such a hot issue.

John Aguilera: To Dan Henkle: It is our expectation that you present at the next Driver's License Sub-Committee meeting regarding the following topics:

- i. Update on policies in other states
- ii. Update on federal legislation (Senate bill 2845, House bill 10)

c. Dr. Mary Ilu Altman, Executive Director Sub-Committee

i. Update on Executive Director job description

Mary Ilu Altman: 2 objections on recommendations that Sal made. See two bullets 10, 11. Sal deleted "identifies"

Pat Rios: Looked at original. Can you provide an overview of the process? My concern is that the employee doesn't change as far as pay rate and compensation. Also, the profile looks different.

Mary Ilu Altman: Claudia (Ontiveros-Fuentes) is in charge of logistics.

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes: Evelyn Ridley-Turner used state human resource person to make sure that the pay rate wouldn't change.

Much of the wording couldn't change, describing job duties. Also, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) worked with us.

Mary Ilu Altman: A draft was submitted 2 weeks ago, Sal and John were to review it. Now I'll go to points 10, and 11. Sal.

Sal: I just assumed that they'd do it. It's no big deal if you want to throw it in there. I was taking out unnecessary words for fat free writing, but it's fine with me if it stays in there.

Mary Ilu Altman: Claudia has more.

Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes: “Prepares weekly reports” and “prepares written and electronic reports” should be 2 separate bullet points.

John Aguilera: 2 separate bullet points. Amendments: motion to accept.

Pat Rios: Before going further – there are outstanding questions in bullet points 2 and 3 – “whom?by?”

Mary Ilu Altman: The audience is difficult to narrow. Current proposal is to not define audience, leave it broad.

John Aguilera: Points 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10, 11 (now 11, 12) identify and facilitate & identify and document.

FSSA: Identifying is not the same as proposing.

John Aguilera: Correct.

Motion. Second. Aye. None opposed.

John Aguilera: Motion to accept new job description.

Motion, no discussion, second, Aye. No opposed.

d. Open floor for further Commission business.

John Aguilera: Just came from Health Care Interpreter/translator Commission. Very impressed. Recommendations, available through Lawrence. On agenda for a meeting in future to have them come before us. People were not getting paid, putting in long hours. They’re to be applauded.

Mary Ilu Altman: Can we have a summary?

John Aguilera: Yes. That’s all I have now. Open floor for Commission.

Audience:

Marta Carbajal: Representative from Senator Bayh’s office – Will help with anything she can.

Jenny Sarabia: East Chicago has a new Latino mayor, ... wants to be involved.

Hal Beene: I’m from the Marion County Public Defender’s agency, Driver’s License Court 13. Will the meeting on Nov 4 address licensing procedures?

Juana Watson: Yes. It’s a public meeting, please come.

Frances Vega: With Ivy Tech, new with outreach to Hispanic community, thanking Lawrence for keeping her informed.

III. Public: Q&A