



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2020 | 2:00 PM-3:30 PM | Iowa State Capitol, Legislative Dining Room

### Commissioners Present

- Jeannette Brown, Chair
- Marlu Abarca, Vice-Chair
- Alfonzo Perez, by phone
- Caleb Knutson

### Commissioners Absent

- Lorena Gingerich
- Gilbert Nuñez
- San Wong, Exoficio

### Department of Human Right Staff Present

- Monica Stone, DHR Deputy Director
- Sonia Reyes, Office of Latino Affairs
- Cecilia Martinez, Latinos Can

### Public Members Present

- Jason Mercado, Student
- Christina Velasquez
- Erica Johnson
- Ramon Calzada

## I. Call to Order & Introductions

## II. Public Comment

- Erika Johnson shared about the initiatives that American Friends Committee has coming up for the Immigrant and Refugee communities.
- Christina Velasquez mentioned that she is new to Iowa and is looking to get involved in the community.
- Ramon Calzada, the Latino Center of Iowa in Council Bluffs shared information about the center and its efforts. He also invited the commission to participate in their annual Latino Festival.

## III. Approval of:

- **Meeting minutes from 1/31/2020**  
Motion: Abarca  
Second: Knutson  
All in favor
- **Commission's 2020 Policy Recommendations**  
Not provided by the legislative committee.

#### **IV. Selection of Executive Committee and Committee Chairs and DHR Board and IQCC Representative**

- a) **Chair:** Caleb Knutson
- b) **Vice-Chair:** Marlu Abarca

The following positions will be decided at the next commission meeting to allow the new commission members to participate and sign up for committees.

- c) Secretary
- d) PILA Chair
- e) Legislative Committee Chair
- f) Latino Hall of Fame Committee Chair
- g) DHR Representative
- h) IQCC Representative

#### **V. Selection of 2020 Hall of Fame Selections Committee Members**

- a) **Chair:**
- b) **Commissioner:**
- c) **Commissioner:**
- d) **Public Member:** Christina Velasquez
- e) **Public Member:** Christina Fernandez-Morrow
- f) **Public Member:** Lilian Sanchez
- g) **Ex-Officio (commission chair):** Caleb Knutson

Reyes will reach out to public members about serving in the selections committee.

#### **VI. PILA Update:**

##### **a) Community Conversations**

Knutson and Reyes are working together to set community conversation events in six communities in Iowa.

##### **b) Quarterly Webinars**

These will be offered every other month.

##### **c) Marshalltown PILA**

Knutson is working on starting a PILA chapter in Marshalltown. It will be a community conversation and a networking event.

##### **d) Latinos You Should Know**

Knutson is working with the office and Hola Iowa to get this project started with the goal of highlighting Latino stories around the state.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

**Next Commission Meeting: May 22, 2020 in Muscatine**

[Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs, Iowa Department of Human Rights](#)