



ICLA

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 30, 2019 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Boys and Girls Club, 2500 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, IA

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Commissioners Present

- Jeannette Brown, Chair
- Marlu Abarca, Vice-Chair
- Lorena Gingerich, Secretary
- Alfonzo Perez
- Gilbert Nuñez
- Caleb Knutson
- Valerie Nolte

Department of Human Right Staff Present

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

Public Members Present

None

II. Welcome to New Commissioner:

Gilbert Nunez, Toddville. Term 3/1/2022-4/30-2022-Republican

III. Public Comment

No public comment

IV. Approval of minutes from March 15, 2019, July 22, 2019 and August 5, 2019 and Commission End of the Year Report.

Gingerich moved to approve
Abarca seconded
All in favor

The commission wants to share their end of FY 2018-2019 Commission Report on social media and on the website.

V. Updates on Commission Initiatives

a. Hall of Fame

Gingerich reported that it was hard to choose this year's inductees as all people nominated were outstanding. The commission discussed the importance of recognizing military and LGBTQA Latinos.

b. PILA – Association of Iowa Latinx Professionals

PILA had three events in partnership with YPC. There are monthly professional Development webinars and Reyes sends out a professional development and job opportunities newsletter monthly.

c. FALO – Friends of the Commission and Office of Latino Affairs
Caseys, Juan Rodriguez and Des Moines Metro Credit Union are FALO sponsors.

d. Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition
Abarca reported that IQCC sent out a survey asking LGBTQ people of color about their needs in order to set the coalition’s priority areas.

e. Iowa Sponsors of Detained Children Task Force
Brown shared information and the need for support of children that come to Iowa after being detained at the border. Commissioners asked Stone to allow Reyes to participate in this effort. Gingerich shared that helping the children and their family members is a human right and Iowa issue. She mentioned that the commission needs Reyes to help with this task force, as she has the expertise and relationship with community members and commissioners are just volunteers. Stone let the commission know that Reyes doesn’t have authorization from DHR to lead this taskforce, but she can attend meetings.

f. Legislative Committee
Abarca shared the date of the 2020 Latino Day on the Hill – March 9, 2020. She shared that there will be more organizations participating this year. The committee will work on the legislative priorities.
Stone shared with the commission that Reyes is not able to help with the planning of the Day on the Hill event.
Nuñez asked what the commission needs to do to have more support from the department, they would like the department to allow Reyes to provide more time to the commission.

VI. Strategic Planning Session

The strategic plan is attached

VII. Adjourn