

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING Saturday August 5, 2023.

In-Person
Lexington Public Library, 907 N Washington St., Lexington, NE 68850

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans Vice-Chair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz welcomed everyone, Present were Sandra Lopez, Leticia Rodriguez, Jaime Suarez, Adi Dobbins, Lali Sage and Executive Director Maria Arriaga introduced Public in attendance. **Community members present:** Karina Lupercio, Chair of United by Culture Media and Gladys Godinez, Executive Director of United by Culture Media

III. ROLL CALL / RECORD ABSENTEES (Motion 1)

Present: Vice-Chair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez. **Staff Present:** Executive Director Maria Arriaga, and Office Specialist Dora Lima.

***Motion 1** was made by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez to excuse absences of Commissioners Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins. Absences excused: Aida Evans and Maria Whitmore.*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gladys Godinez, from Lexington Nebraska, described the festival they are promoting United by Culture Media, a free event for the Lexington Community.

V. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINOAMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING

LINCOLN - The Commission on Latino-Americans will host its Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, August 5, 2023. The meeting will take place at Lexington Public Library, 907 N Washington St., Lexington, NE 68850. We will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at no later than 2 p.m. The Quarterly Meeting is open to the public and all interested individuals are invited to attend. Time will be allocated for public comments within the first hour of the meeting. We encourage those wishing to speak to call our office ahead of time, in an effort to provide better accommodations. The agenda for the Quarterly Meeting will be kept current and made available for public inspection at the Commission's office. For further information, please contact us at (402) 471-2791. Public Notice of this meeting was placed in The Kearney Hub; The North Platte Telegraph, The Grand Island Independent, Lexington Clipper-Herald, The Star-Herald and Omaha World Herald on July 22, 2023; The Lincoln Journal Star on July 23, 2023; Mundo Latino Publications on July 28, 2023 and it was e-mailed to the NCLA e-mail list and posted in Social Media channels.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (MOTION 2)

***Motion 2** was made by Governor's Representative Lali Sage to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MOTION 3)

***Motion 3** was made by Secretary Jaime Suarez to approve the Minutes for April 22, 2023 with changes by Governor's Representative Lali Sage. Seconded by Governor's Representative Lali Sage. Commissioner Lali Sage commented and asked for a correction. JBS is not being investigated by the NE Department of Labor but by the Federal Department of Labor as they are the agency that has jurisdiction.*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The Nebraska Latino Youth Summit updates

Executive Director Arriaga gave updates of the Latino Youth Summit for October 17 2023. The purpose of the Commission's seed money is to continue promoting the Latino Youth Summit events in other communities that still has not had it. Commissioner Leticia suggested to continue talking with communities that are in the Central area of Nebraska. Secretary Suarez suggested that it is also important to also look for a financial partner to support the effort for the Latino Youth Summit.

Establish an objective criteria for the selection of communities in the area where the next Latino Youth Summit will be considered to be held and the period in which it will be held.

2. Website Updates

Executive Director Arriaga presented the mockup of the website design, ED Arriaga reminded the Commissioners that some of the promotional materials we currently have contain copyrighted pictures we have paid for one year. We will need to have new promotional materials with our own new pictures.

The different buttons and design of the page was mentioned in detail. Commissioners consider it is important to have a message from the governor, State of Nebraska seal and his picture in the main landing page of the commission.

The commission agreed to include a link to the statutes and current bills that are being discussed in the legislature. Include the colors from our media kit and logo so it is more cohesive with our logo colors.

Request pictures and copyrights from the public to include in our website.

Our Lancaster Co. community foundation was mentioned, we need to have another account for the rest of the State so we can use those funds in a jurisdiction different than Lancaster County.

3. NCLA Latino Business in Nebraska Project report and document, suggestions, and document distribution.

Executive Director Arriaga suggested to present the report to the public in a press conference; Lali added we should have more information included and hold the press conference in November including the website. Maria suggested to also add the health disparities information. Addi Dobbins will also use it in a Latino businesses meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Award Hispanic Heritage Congressional District 2 (Motion 4)** A recognition to outstanding leadership and service in the Latinoamerican community in this congressional jurisdiction. The Commission will support the event proposing the candidates for the award and coordinating the organization of the event in cooperation with the Congressional office staff and with the Mexican Consulate that will host the event. Jaime Suarez, Addi Dobbins, Lali Sage expressed their desire to have the Congressional award expanded to district 1 and 3 as well.

***Motion 4** was made by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez to approve involvement of the Nebraska Commission for Latinoamericans award for Hispanic Heritage Congressional District 2. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

2. Commissioner's Photoshoot (Motion 5)

Hire a professional photographer to take head shots of commissioners and staff. Freemont or Lincoln will be the location for the professional photos for the website. These photos will be taken so they are standardized and high resolution so that they are suitable for the purpose. The estimate and proposal from the photographer is pending.

***Motion 5** was made by Governor's Representative Lali Sage to approve Commissioner's Photoshoot for the website. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

3. Unidos US Conference July 22-24 report and proposal Agenda for Gov. Meeting (Motion 7)

***Motion 7** was made by Commissioner Sandra Lopez to approve Unidos US Annual Conference for Gov. meeting Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

4. Welcoming America Partnership & membership (Motion)

E. Director Arriaga presented the options and advantages of being a member of Welcoming America membership in membership there is training on how to gather information to help communities to be more welcoming. Membership cost is \$500 per year. It was agreed that a better fit would be to present this to the Governor. It is possible the State already has this training available. It was decided a motion will not be needed.

5. Crete Back to school sponsorship report

E. Director Arriaga reported on the event at Crete with a motivational speaker to encourage the parents to be more involved with their children's activities and education.

6. Application for support: United by Culture Media (Motion 8)

***Motion 8** was made by Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz to approve the Application for support: United by Culture Media. The request was for \$2,000 but the Commission agreed to grant \$1,500 and that it is used for the t-shirts for volunteers and to include the on the t-shirts the logo of the Latino-American Commission and to be recognized as sponsors for the volunteers. Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

7. AmeriCorps Nebraska Vista-grant application (Motion 9)

E.D. Arriaga presented the request to AmeriCorps Nebraska Vista grant application. To have an Americorps person to work at our office for a year of service of a full time Americorps person.

The Commission would be in charge to selecting the person. Payment needed is only 1000.00 for the year.

***Motion 9** was made by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez to approve AmeriCorps Nebraska Vista-grant application. Seconded by Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

8. Evaluation: Latino demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Nebraska (Motion 10)

Commissioners suggested some changes on the document to make it more accurate since some counties were excluded from the summary. Executive Director Maria Arriaga has the list of recommendations to work on to improve the current document. Executive Director was asked to negotiate to obtain more pertinent and deeper information to enrich the document and not have excluded information that is not properly reflecting a clear picture of the aspect we would like to present.

A second document on Latinoamericans and education as well as a third document of Latinoamericans and health are in process as reported by E.D. Maria Arriaga.

***Motion 10** was made by Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz to approve Evaluation: Latino demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Nebraska. As long as the recommendations provided by commissioners are made in the document. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

9. Ad-Hoc Committee to nominate elections of Executive Committee (Motion 6)

Ad-Hoc Committee to nominate officers was formed to nominate candidates for the positions of Chair, Vicechair and Secretary. Vicechair Cristina Castro Matukewicz

explained the functions of the nominating committee and the way the process of selection of officers would be conducted in the following meeting. Vicechair Cristina Castro and Governor representative Lali Sage will be part of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

***Motion 6** was made by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez to approve members of nomination Ad-Hoc Committee: Governor's Representative Lali Sage and Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, and Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

X.FINANCIAL REPORTS (MOTION 11)

Financial reports were presented, examined, and reviewed.

- 1) Review Budget Status Reports for April, May, June, and July.**
- 2) Review General Ledger Reports for April, May, June, and July.**

***Motion 11** was made by Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz to approve the Financial reports for April May, June and July. Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez*

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

*Vote No: None **Motion Passed***

XI. DIRECTOR REPORT (MOTION 12)

Executive Director Maria Arriaga presented her report of activities. Attendance to Unidos US National Conference and some of the ideas that are successful in other Latinoamerican communities in the rest of the country. Young Latino assisting UnidosUS with chaperones and agenda to meet with Gov. Pillen. The Executive Director expressed interest in establishing some ways to fundraise for different events and presented different ideas of doing so. Vice-Chair Cristina Castro offered her assistance and briefly explained different types of aspects to fundraising. It was asked of the Executive Director to create a plan that the Board of Commissioners can study for the meeting on November 11 2023 and perhaps fine tune. It is important to have clear opportunities of investment for donors so they can decide where they would like their funds to go.

Motion 12 was made by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez to approve the Director's report. Seconded by Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz

Vote Yes: Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz, Governor's Representative Lali Sage, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins, Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.

Vote No: None Motion Passed

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (MOTION 13)

XIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Maria Whitmore sent in her written report she participated in judicial listening sessions that were organized by the judicial branch. The sessions brought many needs forward especially for bilingual professionals in the legal system, these identified needs will be included in options for careers the students attending Latino Youth Summit will be able to learn about. Also informational materials for the community to be knowledgeable about traffic rules, the most common legal violation in Nebraska judicial district 5. Organizational meetings for the Latino Youth Summit. Bimonthly meetings with Executive Director Maria Arriaga to support her work. Identified federal programs that can be a support for the Latinoamerican community to have internet and communications access. The funds are also for hardware if necessary. This is a tool that could be helpful for latino-americans from those who are at home helping their children with homework to those who own a business. It is important that these programs do have promotional materials in Spanish. Now they are and will be included in our website. Worked with Executive Committee and Executive Director on an agenda to meet with Governor Pillen.

Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz

Vicechair Cristina Castro-Matukewicz informed she has been working with the Executive Committee to support Executive Director Maria Arriaga in Commission activities entered the Nebraska Lead program. A program to develop leadership it is important for more Latinoamericans to participate, one of the hurdles for minorities is the cost of entering the program. Cristina was also helping the Mexican consulate in their business needs she attended the Hispanic Chamber breakfast.

Secretary Jaime Suarez

Secretary Jaime Suarez was not present at the time.

Governor's Representative Lali Sage

Governor's Representative Lali Sage informed about materials that the Nebraska department of labor is making now available in Spanish. She also informed about the employee recognition awards. The person recognized for Excellence in customer service. Monica Zamarripa de Leon. From Scottsbluff.

Commissioner Sandra Lopez

Commissioner Sandra Lopez has been volunteering with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to teach small business and financial training.

Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins

Commissioner Adi Nancy Dobbins leadership skills training for teens, she is working with the judicial system to help non-English speaking families navigate their options for the best option for the youth at risk whose parents that are facing these challenges. Hispanic Chamber has been helping Commissioner Dobbins in organizing the celebrations for Hispanic heritage month.

Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez

Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez informed about some families with outstanding medical bills, also some students that need trauma counseling but the school is unable to provide those services.

XIV. NEXT MEETING (October 7, 14, 21 or 28) SAVE THE DATE Location Fremont or Crete.

Location: Possibly Fremont, NE 9 am – 2 pm

XV. ADJOURN.

Adjourned at: 3 p.m.

Secretary: Jaime Suarez, _____

Acting Secretary: Lali Sage

Transcribed: Maria Whitmore.