



Virginia Latino Advisory Board
September 26, 2017
Minutes

Present: Carolina Espinal, Chris Falcon, Cecilia Barbosa Julio Cesar Idrobo, Cecilia Williams, Mike Martinez, Aida Pacheco, Gloria Rockhold, Diana Vall-Ilobera, Louisa Meruvia, Mercedes Santos-Bell, Sergio Rimola, Jorge Yinat, Eugene Chigna

Public Comment: Stephen Valdez gave a presentation to the board on the possibility of VLAB registering as a 501c3. Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General, followed and recommended against doing so. Justin Bell also went over his memo on FOIA to the board and discussed Chris Falcon's policy on soliciting funds. Aida Pacheco recommended that #4 of the policy strikes "Maribel Ramos," and adds "Staff to the Board." Louisa Meruvia made the motion to approve the amendment and Chris Seconded.

Justin Bell also discussed quorums and public meetings. For public meetings, 3 members is considered a meeting and 8 is a quorum. No official actions can be taken at a meeting without a quorum. You have to have a quorum and a public location available to conduct any VLAB business, and Aida announced that groups will be getting together at the Governor's Latino Summit on October 10th. Justin Bell will also review VLAB's bylaws and will likely update it.

Policy Update: Robert Mejia gave an overview of recent updates from the McAuliffe administration that is relevant to the Latino Community including – DACA, Charlottesville, and the Teacher Diversity Taskforce.

General Board Business: Aida Pacheco instructed each committee to follow up with agency liaisons from the Fellow's report. Any questions must be submitted to Robert by the end of October. Aida Pacheco would like to get a transition meeting scheduled with the next Governor. In regards to extra staff support to the board, Aida Pacheco will discuss this with the Chair of the Asian Advisory Board.

Aida Pacheco spoke on the success of the community forum held the previous evening. The Board then voted on the next meeting date which will take place on December 1st, 2017 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Committee chairs will also work on delivering a draft to the Annual Report by November 3rd, which will be sent to Chris Falcon.

Committee Chairs Report Out: Jorge Yinat stated that business education was a large focus of their community forum held the previous evening. Among the topics covered included the need for access to

data on Latino owned SWaM businesses, the economic impact that ending DACA would have on Virginia, and research on the economic need for Virginia drivers licenses to be accessible by non-citizens.

Louisa Meruvia reported out on Civic Engagement and stated that they need to have at least 2 or 3 representatives from each committee to take the lead on recommendations from community forum. In their committee meeting on the 26th, committee members discussed board vacancies, around 101 Latino appointments currently today, and an issue with getting in touch with staff at ELECT. Maribel Ramos suggested that in the future, the board should let staff know of any issues getting in touch with state agencies.

Eugene Chigna reported out on Education, and one of the themes from the previous evening's community forum was an issue with Latino students not taking advantage of certain programs. There is a need to education parents on the access to loans and federal resources. Leah Walker attended their meeting today.

Mike Martinez reported out on the Health Care Committee, there were three representatives from VDH at last night's forum. An issue that was discussed was a non- prescribed pharmaceuticals being given out at Latino stores in the Commonwealth. The Health Care Committee's initiative was handed out at today's meeting.