



The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes | October 13, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Jessica Lozano-Alvarez	Amy Ariza
Chriss Chavez	Amairani Perez Chamu
Carlos Bejarano	Ivan Patino-Cortez
Mimi Martinez Herrera	Daniel Gomez
Andy Little	Fatima Linares
Mark Ohnesgore	Jordan Mazariegos
Amanda Peregrina	Ivan Patino-Cortez
Angelica Reina	Jacob Rodriguez
Jania Rivera-Wester	Elsie Urueta Pollock

- I. Call to order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Chairman Bejarano
- II. Approval of August and September Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Chairman Bejarano requests a motion to approve the minutes
 - i. Commissioner Rivera Wester makes a motion
 - ii. Commissioner Peregrina seconds
 - iii. Minutes approved
- III. Chairs Report**
 - a. Chairman Bejarano reports:
 - i. The planned guest speaker, Laura Grisso from Tulsa Public schools, will be rescheduled to present at a later date.
 - ii. Elections for the Chair, Vice Chair, Recorder, and Historian will be held during the January meeting, and commissioner Chavez will be this season's nomination chair. At the Jan meeting, she will present the slate of officers, and the commission will have the election.
 - iii. Both he and Vice Chairwoman Lozano Alvarez attended the Q4 Chair/Vice Chair meeting and discussed the newly passed ordinance for removing commissioners based on attendance. Commissioners who have missed three consecutive meetings or 50% of sessions within 12 months are eligible. He encourages commissioners to communicate in a timely matter if they are absent.
 - iv. He and the Bond Oversight Committee of Tulsa Public Schools toured the new East Central Facilities, gym, and fieldhouse.
- IV. Committee Reports**
 - a. **Executive**
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano reports:
 - 1. The committee met on October 7th

2. Gabriella Ramirez with OK Policy Institute will speak at the November meeting. She'll likely discuss the issue of driver's licenses and the case for undocumented citizens to have one.
3. The Strategic Planning session will pick up in the second or third week of January once after confirmation from new officers. Ideally, this session would take place in City Hall.
4. The committee discussed hosting an informal get-together in December to celebrate the 2022 year.

b. Education

- i. Commissioner Peregrina reports that the committee is still working to establish a workshop for parents that will focus on financial assistance in higher education, i.e., FAFSA & available scholarships.
 1. Commissioner Chavez encourages the committee to meet with her and her organization – The Tulsa Engineering Foundation, which offers substantial scholarships. She acknowledges that there are stipulations regarding immigration status, but she believes that the commission could successfully petition the organization to be more open about that. She states that STEM degrees are incredible opportunities for immigrants and folks concerned about their status. There's also a high demand for Spanish-speaking STEM positions.
 - a. Commissioner Rivera Wester reflects on the number of students nominated for the Tomas Rivera awards and how many want to go into engineering.
 2. The commission enters a discussion about how beneficial this approach could be, what organizations in Tulsa are already doing this work, and where the gaps in access to the information are.
- ii. Commissioner Linares reports that next year's Tomas Rivera Awards Celebration will take place on Thursday, May 11th 2023.

c. Community Advocacy

- i. Commissioner Chavez reports that she attended a luncheon hosted by [UMA Tulsa](#) related to informing and providing insurance to small business owners in the immigration and Hispanic/Latinx community. She met with multiple entrepreneurs, and the data she gathered was extensive regarding business insurance knowledge. She learned there's a gap in education and understanding of the importance of insurance for small business owners within the community. She asks if the commission would be interested in exploring this.
 1. *The UMA Center is a local nonprofit dedicated to improving communities by providing resources to improve physical and mental health and support small businesses.
 2. Chairman Bejarano suggests they look into UMA Tulsa, which is already doing that work.
 - a. He also informs commissioners that he's making a note of all the things discussed for the strategic planning meeting in January.

d. Public Safety

- i. Commissioner Ohnesorge reports that TPD has been discussing their car seat safety advocacy and identified that car seat usage is lower than they'd like and that there's not much information offered in Spanish.
 1. TPD will reach out to their partner organizations to address this.
 2. He informs the commission that TPD's advocacy includes car seat installation classes in Spanish and English. Folks who attend the classes and complete them are offered free car seats as an incentive.
- ii. Commissioner Chavez offers kudos to the fire department for its campaign during Hispanic Heritage Month and to TPD for putting out information about the new U-Turn Law on Facebook and Que Buena radio station

e. Immigration

- i. No report

f. Special Committees

- i. Chairman Bejarano reports that the committee is working on drafting the annual report and will share the draft during the November meeting.

V. Old Business

- a. None

VI. Announcements/Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Martinez Herrera announces:
 - i. The Tulsa Global District will be hosting its Hispanic Heritage Month Festival this Saturday from 11 am-4 pm at 21st and Garnett
 - ii. Tulsa Area United Way's annual auction is live

VII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Bejarano makes a motion to adjourn
- b. Commissioner Rivera Wester seconds
- c. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm