

Eric Batista
City Manager



German Chiriboga
Hamilton Soriano
Laura Martinez
Eric Diaz
Giovanni Ayala
Deborah Gonzalez
Pablo Santiago

CITY OF WORCESTER

Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs *Comisión Asesora sobre Asuntos Latinos*

MEETING MINUTES / *Agenda de la Reunión*

Thursday, February 8th, 2023, 5:30 PM / *jueves 8 de febrero, 5:30pm*

Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber 3rd flr, 455 Main Street, Worcester, MA
01608

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Present: German Chiriboga
Deborah Gonzalez
Laura Martinez

Remote: Eric Diaz

Absent: Giovani Ayala, Pablo Santiago, Hamilton
Soriano

Staff: David Quiroa, City Manager's Office

1. David called the meeting to order at 5:35pm
2. David called a roll call for commissioner attendance of the meeting.
3. David called for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 12, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Chiriboga motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gonzalez 2nd the motion. Roll call vote to approve the minutes. 4 in favor, 0 oppose, and 3 absent.
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4. Introductions of people present at the meeting.
5. David called for the election of the chair and vice-chair of the commission. Commissioner Chiriboga motioned to open nominations and vote for officers.; Commissioner Gonzalez 2nd the motion. Roll call vote to approve the nominations. 4 in favor, 0 oppose, and 3 absent.
6. Commissioner Chiriboga nominated Commissioner Martinez for Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Martinez was the sole nominee for Chair and was voted as Chair. Next, Commissioner Martinez nominated Commissioner German Chiriboga for Vice-chair. Commissioner Chiriboga was the sole nominee for vice-chair and voted as Vice-Chair. Roll call vote to close the nominations. 4 in favor, 0 oppose, and 3 absent.
7. New Business/ Open Discussion.
8. David indicated that Pam Callahan would be at the next meeting to work on a more detailed discussion about how to move forward but requested members initial ideas. Additionally, Pam will go over Robert's Rules and best practices for running the meeting.
9. Commissioner Chiriboga suggested that we devote some time on data on the Latino community to learn more on where we are at with the issues facing this community. It's important to invite the schools, DPH, and other departments to enlighten the conversation.
10. David said we can invite speakers to present to the commission.
11. Chair Martinez asked how we should strategize the meetings regarding themes.
12. David shared that it is important to be narrow and nimble when it comes to what priorities we want to look into.
13. Commissioner Gonzalez said that it is important to support new leaders who are Latino in the city. Looking at ways to educate and support new leaders.
14. Commissioner Diaz is an agreement on the importance of inviting outside organizations also to contribute to this work.
15. David indicated that any invites should go through the staff liaison, and they will work with the chair to put it on the agenda. He mentioned the Research Bureau usually sends out reports that we can look into for the commission.
16. Commissioner Gonzalez stated that it is important to look at root causes on issues. Within the Latino community there is a rich diversity. Commissioner Martinez mentioned she helped with a community food assessment for the city last year. There is a lack of access to resources for people in Worcester. There is a large gap of spreading information. Worcester Public Schools is an important start to be able to spread information to families. David talked about the importance of having more ESOL courses in the city. The library's most popular course is ESOL and ESL classes. How can we as a city create more opportunities for learning?
17. Commissioner Chiriboga how can we create a line for the community to connect with the Commission. We should look at our accessibility using Teams, and who we are leaving behind. It's important to look at different ways of communication to the community. David will touch base with city staff about having meetings in different locations.
18. Commissioner Chiriboga shared that is important not to just hear the goods news from presenters, but it is important to hear where are the gaps. We should have a level of humility and that it is okay to not know why something occurs.

Commissioner Gonzalez indicated that the purpose of this commission is to address the needs of the Latino community. Commissioner Diaz shared information about the HUB.

19. The next meeting will take place on March 21st. David sent a list of dates for the coming year. After discussion, it seemed as though Thursdays worked best for everyone present.
20. Chair Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Gonzalez 2nd the motion.
21. After a roll call vote, 4 in favor, 0 not in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm

/DQ