

The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes | March 10, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Carlos Bejarano	Amy Arriza
Amairani Perez Chamu	Monica Blendowski
Chriss Chavez	Hugo Salceda
Daniel Gomez	Elsie Urueta Pollock
Fatima Linares	Jessica Lozano
Mimi Martinez	Andy Little
Mark Ohnesorge	Jania Rivera Wester
Amanda Peregrina	
Angelica Reina	
Jacob Rodriguez (Liaison)	

I. Call to Order

- a. Commissioner Bejarano called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
 - i. The commission welcomed Commissioners Chavez & Arriza to the commission. Commissioner Arriza was unable to attend the meeting.
 - 1. Commissioner Chavez introduced herself as born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and a graduate of West Point Military Academy. Commissioner Chavez served as a military police officer for 23 years and has called Tulsa home for nearly 20 years. She now serves as a self-employed engineering consultant.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Commissioner Chavez & Reina note discrepancies in the meeting minutes.
- b. Pending approval of corrections, Commissioner Bejarano calls for a motion to approve with the stated corrections.
 - i. Commissioner Chavez Peregrina makes a motion to approve
 - ii. Commissioner Peregrina seconds the motion
 - 1. Commissioner Chavez abstain
 - 2. All other commissioners present, approve.

III. Guest Speaker - Marcelino Leal, Owen Cowdery, and Korry Burr on behalf of Community Health Connection.

- a. Community Health Connection is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides a range of medical, dental, and behavioral health services to Tulsa citizens. The guest speakers provide updates and statistics to the commission regarding their services and targeted demographics. They have a new facility in East Tulsa serving the Latinx Community in that area and through the City/County.

IV. Chair's Report

- a. Commissioner Bejarano reports that he attended The Square at Nam Hai Market, hosted by the Tulsa Global District. He reported that the organizers did a great job of highlighting the neighborhood and community
 - i. Commissioner Martinez, who serves as a Board Member for the Tulsa Global District reports that the event was very successful, and believes the committees were to thank. The event planners were very intentional with booking multicultural entertainment and food options, which included representations of Hmong, Latinx, and Asian cultures in a variety of showcases.
 1. Commissioner Martinez reports that surveys were distributed to all participants to collect feedback.
- b. Commission Bejarano serves on the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee for Tulsa Public Schools and reports that \$30 million of a \$414 million bond was recently allocated to Tulsa Public Schools.
 - i. One of the immediate improvements discussed was to allocate funds towards repurposing The Roger's Softball Teams' field into a new practice gym for the entire school, to accommodate the growing population of students and better serve all students of TPS.

V. Committee Reports

a. Executive

- i. Commissioner Bejarano reports that the committee met on March 4th and discussed officer positions, as well as speakers for future commission meetings.
- ii. Commissioner Bejarano directs the commission to a visual table, located in their folders, that categorizes and cross-references each of the events, initiatives, and activities the commission does in line with the resilience strategy for the City.
 1. Commissioner Bejarano informs the commissioners that this will be a regularly addressed visual for whenever the commission is planning or considering a new task, to help make sure the commission is being intentional and engaging in necessary work on all levels.

b. Executive (continued)

- i. Commissioner Peregrina, who represents the GTAHLAC on the Human Rights Commission, reports that the Human Rights Commission recently

honored Katy Dale as the January Compassionate Tulsan-of-the-Month and Eva Unterman, as the February recipient.

- ii. She reminds the commission to nominate anyone they can think of for the awards.

c. Education

- i. Commissioner Linares reports that applications for the Tomas Rivera Awards are formally closed, and they have 69 applications. Out of the 69 applicants, 31 are students from a variety of districts, including Union, Tulsa Public Schools, and Jenks.

d. Community Advocacy

- i. Commissioner Bejarano presented a written report provided by Commissioner Ureta Pollock who was unable to attend the meeting.
- ii. The Career Fair Committee reports that the link for the career fair sign-ups is live, and the committee will begin meeting much more frequently to finalize event details.
 1. The committee reports that Gitzel Puente is working with the committee to assist with publicity through the City of Tulsa's Communication Department.
- iii. Commissioner Martinez inquires if the committee needs any additional support from the commission.
 1. Commissioners Martinez, Linares, Perez Chamu, and Chavez volunteer to join the committee alongside commissioner Pollock & Lozano.

e. Public Safety

- i. No report
- ii. Commissioner Ohnesorge will take over as Chair for this committee and will coordinate with the committee to set-up a recurring monthly meeting.

f. Immigration

- i. Commissioner Gomez reports that the committee has begun having a formal presence at the naturalization ceremonies.
- ii. The committee has also begun partnering with the Flourish Tulsa Program and is specifically assisting them with efforts to locate connectors or mentors – specifically engineers and mental health professionals.
- iii. The committee is working to propose a speaker at the next commission meeting for an immigration-focused commission meeting.
- iv. The committee is actively monitoring the Afghan refugee programs, which they consider a timely effort, and hope that the potential guest speaker can speak about what is going on and what the commission can do.

- v. The committee is contemplating a housing rights clinic or town hall to create a basic understanding of rights i.e. notice before eviction, where to go, and how to stand up for yourself.
- vi. The committee is receiving word that there are still disparaging issues with truancy at TPS. The committee is hoping to speak with the school board if necessary.
- vii. The committee was alerted to the renewal of the 287G contract – a partnership with ice detainees & Tulsa. When the committee followed up, they realized that the new contract cannot cause as much harm to immigrant communities.

g. Special Committees

- i. Commissioner Bejarano reports that the communications committee has resumed posting and publishing the commissioners.
 - 1. Commissioner Mazariegos will be sending out a questionnaire asking for details to include in the post.

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. None

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Bejarano requests a motion to adjourn
 - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge makes a motion to adjourn
 - ii. Commissioner Chavez seconds
 - iii. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm