



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 10, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Amairani Torres-Chamu, Chriss Chavez, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Carlos Bejarano, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Amanda Peregrina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

II. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu revisited the idea of an advocacy letter that was brought up in the last meeting. Lexi reminded the commission what was discussed in March's meeting so everyone is on the same page.
 - i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu agreed that it's important for the commission to advocate and offered to reach out to Commissioner Gomez to see if he has a template.
 - ii. Commissioner Parra looked up and shared an update on the three bills discussed in the March meeting. Asked who the letter would be addressed to.
 1. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu mentioned the letters could go to local leaders (such as City Counselors) educating them about the bills.
 2. Commissioner Chavez noted it's still important to raise awareness on a state level.
 3. Commissioner Parra noted that individual emails, phone calls, and in person meetings with legislators is effective. On Monday, they will release the schedule for committee hearings to know if and when bills are being considered.

iii. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu offered to discuss the bills when she is at the capitol on April 21. If you are interested and available to go to the capitol, reach out to her.

b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu welcomed Commissioner Parra, who is new to the commission. Commissioner Parra introduced himself.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. A quorum was present in the meeting as of 6:20 pm.

b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to approve March meeting minutes.

i. Commissioner Chavez noted one correction that needs to be made in Section VII.

ii. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Ariza seconded.

1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0

iii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved with one correction.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Executive

i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu noted that the Executive Committee did not meet this month, but she and Vice Chair Gonzalez will meet with Lexi soon.

ii. Will consider changing the date of the Executive Committee meetings to better accommodate schedules.

b. Education

i. Commissioner Linares reminded the commission that the Tomás Rivera Awards are next month, May 8 at 6 pm, at the Central Library.

ii. Currently in the process of interviewing students and community heroes. Also working to have the City of Tulsa communication's department approve assets such as the certificates. Pic Me Photobooth will be at the event.

c. Community Advocacy

i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu reported that Commissioner Bejarano emailed resources to her, who will share them with Lexi to distribute to the commission.

d. Public Safety

i. Commissioner Chavez shared the committee met this month and Andy Little chaired.

ii. Andy Little reported that the Council for Safe Neighborhoods soccer tournament went well.

1. Commissioner Ohnesorge had an idea of a soccer game where youth can play against law enforcement.

- iii. Discussed inviting folks to the Tomás Rivera Awards, Commissioner Linares shared that they plan for 200 guests, so anyone is welcome.

- e. Immigration

- i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu shared that she connected with a local grassroots group and they are attending committee meetings.

V. Old Business

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu returned to the advocacy letter discussion. Can also create talking points commissioners can utilize when reaching out to legislators. Open to picking a day during the timeline of the bill to travel to the capitol.
 - i. Commissioner Linares agreed talking points will be helpful.
 - ii. Commissioner Chavez shared an idea of writing a letter that other individuals can then adapt and send themselves.
 - iii. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu proposed having an advocacy letter and also develop talking points that community members can utilize when reaching out as individuals.
 - iv. Discussion ensued about the best way to present the letter, if it should be from Chairwoman Torres-Chamu or from the entire commission. If the letter is on behalf of the entire commission, they will have to meet in person to agree and vote on the language, which will slow down the letter's delivery. Consensus was reached that for the sake of time, the letter will come from Chairwoman Torres-Chamu.
 - v. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to draft an advocacy letter from herself and talking points for community members to utilize.
 - 1. Commissioner Linares motioned, Commissioner Reina seconded.
 - a. Aye: Commissioners Ariza, Chavez, Linares, Parra, Pennington, Reina, and Chairwoman Torres-Chamu
 - b. Nay: 0
 - c. Abstain: Commissioner Ohnesorge
 - 2. Motion carried, Chairwoman Torres-Chamu will write an advocacy letter and draft talking points.
- b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu will move the civic engagement videos through the Executive Committee.

VI. New Business – no new business

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Ohnesorge: Tomorrow, the next Tulsa Police Academy class graduates. Significant because one graduate is graduating through the new partnership with Mexico City University.
- b. Department of Resilience and Equity has been talking to Tulsa Police officers about immigration, refugee services, and educating them on different forms of



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documentation so they are better informed on how to communicate with residents.

- c. Tulsa Police Department will offer a Spanish language of the Citizens Police Academy.
- d. Tomorrow, Tulsa Fire Department will canvas homes from 11th St S to 21st St S, which are often at risk for structural fires. Many Hispanic/Latinx folks living in that area, so they have Spanish-speaking volunteers.
- e. Lexi reviewed TGOV microphone protocols and City Hall parking procedures.
- f. El Centro Dia del Ninez event on April 26 from 12 – 4 pm.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge made a motion, Commissioner Chavez seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.