



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 9, 2026 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Chriss Chavez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina Paez

Commissioners Absent: Carlos Bejarano, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jacob Parra

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Richard Gonzales

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ariza seconded.
 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Spring and Summer Events
 - i. Chairwoman Gonzalez: One goal for the Community Advocacy Committee is to strengthen capacity for tabling. Chairwoman Gonzalez and Vice Chair Chavez are tabling tomorrow at Union High School in collaboration with the Asian Affairs Commission. This experience will help them know what people want to learn from GTAHLAC.
 - ii. If you have events to bring to the group, keep Chairwoman Gonzalez and Vice Chair Chavez informed. Advanced notice is helpful.
- b. GTAAAC Request for Support
 - i. The Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission reached out with questions and an opportunity to collaborate on a project supporting immigrant Black/African American Tulsans, utilizing the 4th Amendment



Worksites Playbook (4AWP). If you're interested, Chairwoman Gonzalez will connect you.

- c. Chairwoman Gonzalez presented the 4AWP to the Asian Affairs Commission on Tuesday.

IV. Community Presentation – Issue in Focus: Stan Khrapak, Tulsa Visa Network

- a. Stan is the lead of Tulsa Visa Network (TVN), a program that attracts and retains international talent in Tulsa. It is free for participants and is supported by the George Kaiser Family Foundation. TVN also helps retain international students and employees already in Tulsa.
- b. TVN's Mission: Support immigrants in Tulsa by providing essential legal, employment, and community integration services, enabling them to thrive and contribute to the region's economic growth, innovation, and cultural vibrancy.
- c. Work a lot with employer-sponsored visas.
- d. TVN partners with an immigration law firm to build out the legal framework that allows participants to build their lives in Tulsa.
- e. Eligibility: Skilled international talent with capability in STEM (but not limited) and Bachelor's or higher (prefer Master's or PhD).
- f. Application on website – 5 stages.
- g. Currently supporting people from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.
 - i. 79 active members
 - ii. 43% computer science specialists
 - iii. \$98K average salary
 - iv. 3 green cards processed in 2025
- h. Primary obligations of program participants: Live in Tulsa, work from Tulsa (in-person, hybrid, or remote).
- i. TVN provides middle and long-term support with legal assistance, community integration, and employer partner support.
- j. Commission Discussion
 - i. Chairwoman Gonzalez: Is there an opportunity for commissions to engage at the events? Stan: Yes, TVN already partners with the City of Tulsa through Welcoming Week and the Immigrant & Refugee Services team. Program participants want to meet members from the Hispanic/Latinx community, could plug in participants to GTAHLAC's work and build relationships. Also open to new connections with companies that will benefit from TVN.
 - ii. Chairwoman Gonzalez: Do you host focus groups or ways for participants to share their experiences about acclimating to Tulsa? Stan: TVN does a number of things, such as hosting panels with program participants. Would be interesting to have special focus groups in collaboration with commission. Open to ideas.



- iii. Vice Chair Chavez and Stan conversed about expanding partnerships with manufacturing companies and engineering roles.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – no report
- b. Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Gonzalez: Committee is currently reviewing who is missing in membership, what type of events GTAHLAC should attend and how to structure tabling, and other ways to engage. Will reach out to commissioners to identify more members.
- c. Public Safety Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez shared she will invite Tulsa Municipal Court staff to future committee meetings.
 - ii. Supporting National EMS Week resource fair at the Zoo on May 17: Would like GTAHLAC to table, need volunteers from commission.
 - 1. Open invite to other commissions.
 - iii. Committee Objectives:
 - 1. Bylaws amendment – Do any other committees need revisions to their descriptions?
 - 2. Greater awareness for traffic laws and safety (ie: National Move Over Month, open to commission collaboration).
 - 3. Possibility to support the Tulsa Women's Commission's women's safety focus.
- d. Immigration Committee
 - i. Commissioner Ariza received word of concern from mother whose son had an immigration hold after going to Municipal Jail and he was detained by ICE. Commissioner Ariza is trying to find information about any has changes to how the Municipal Jail handles these cases, as it would be concerning if they are now referring to ICE.
 - 1. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez suggested emailing Municipal Court to clarify their policy.
 - ii. Park signage in Spanish: A committee member went to several parks to identify which parks need Spanish signage. Will report back when complete.
 - iii. Asks for attorneys to take on pro bono *habeas corpus* cases: received a list of local attorneys and need to reach out to see who is interested.
 - 1. Chairwoman Gonzalez offered to draft a letter on behalf of herself and Vice Chair Chavez so recipients know it's from a formal body.
 - iv. Vice Chair Chavez would like to invite the Tulsa County Sheriff Vic Regalado to speak at the June commission meeting.
- e. Business Engagement Committee – no report
- f. Education Committee



- i. Commissioner Linares shared that 10 heroes and 30 scholars were selected for awards. Received 56 nominations for scholars and it was difficult to choose from all the fantastic students.
- ii. Commissioner Linares is working on the agenda, will reach out to Chairwoman Gonzalez and Lexi to finalize.
- iii. Jesse Guardiola is the keynote speaker.
- iv. Commissioners need to arrive at 5:30 and the ceremony begins at 6.
- v. Chairwoman Gonzalez mentioned inviting AAC to talk about their committees and scholarships.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion for the Executive and Immigration Committees to write a letter on behalf of the commission seeking pro bono support from lawyers.
 - i. Commissioner Linares motioned, and Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, the Executive and Immigration Committees will write a letter.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Union High School Cultural Alliance International Cultural Showcase tomorrow 5:30 – 8 at Union PAC.
- b. Financial and Neighborhood Resource Fair: May 7 from 6 – 8 pm at Rudisill Library
- c. Tulsa Recovery Summit: Where Recovery and Mental Health Meet—May 16 from 8:15 – 1 pm at Tulsa Tech Lemley Memorial Campus. Flyers are in Spanish, volunteer opportunity for commissioners to serve as interpreters.
- d. Spanish Language Conference: Nurturing Bilingual Infants and Toddlers on May 9, 8:30 am – 3 pm
- e. Vice Chair Chavez mentioned there are two commission vacancies, already have applicants and more individuals can apply.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.