Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – Friday; March 2, 2018

Present (13): Aida Pacheco, Diana C. Vall-llobera, Ana Karen Solorio, Karina Kline-Gabel, Victoria Cartagena, Juan Espinoza, Gloria Rockhold, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Cecilia Barbosa, Mike Martinez, Cecilia Williams, Chris Falcon, Jorge Yinat

Absent (8): Louisa Meruvia, Mercedes Santos-Bell, Estuardo Rodriguez, Julio Cesar Idrobo, Sergio Rimola, Eugene Chigna, Zuraya Tapia-Jones, Carolina Espinal

Guest Attendees (2): Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General; Maribel Castaneda, Coordinator of Gubernatorial Appointments (beginning March 19, 2018)

Official Call to Order (12:41pm) Quorum met.

Welcome Remarks
Aida welcomed everyone.

She opened the discussion regarding grounds for termination for board members who have missed more than two meetings. Maribel was asked to provide names and follow-up with Secretary of the Commonwealth, Kelly Thomasson, for guidance.

Approval of December 8 Minutes
Chris moved to approve minutes. Gloria seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Post-Brief Board Retreat
Aida reviewed the glow, grow, and value moments discussed at the retreat. Highlights from the retreat included support for the community forums and a need for a diverse board. Maribel will draft a thank you letter to Melody who helped support VLAB's retreat.

Reading of Governor Ralph Northam's Letter to VLAB
Aida read the Governor's letter to the board and there was consensus to request a meeting with the Governor and that Board's upcoming work align with Governor's recommendations. A meeting will be set up with Governor Northam and select VLAB members.

Review of VLAB's Areas of Expertise/Experience

Chris reviewed the survey that assessed Board members' skills to better align expertise with committee roles. Thirteen members responded to the survey; Aida recommended that board members who have not completed the survey complete it soon. Maribel will add "Skills and Expertise" to the Board Matrix.

VLAB Elections

Members running included Cecilia Barbosa for Chair, Mercedes Santos Bell for Vice-Chair, and Karina Kline-Gabel for Secretary, all unopposed. For Chair, there were 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. Gloria nominated Jorge for Vice-Chair, Mike seconded, but Jorge declined and expressed support for Mercedes. For Vice-Chair, there were 12 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions. For Secretary, there were 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Cecilia, Vivian, and the rest of the board thanked Aida for her leadership.

Discussion of February 19th Governor Latino Leadership Meeting

Eight out of the 30 attendees at the meeting were VLAB members. Topics of discussion included tracking procurement to Latino-owned businesses, multilingual resources, mental health focus, and housing. Chris reminded the board that, per statute, members should ask Justin for any guidance on what VLAB can and cannot do as an Advisory Board to the Governor. Aida will follow-up with Walter for a meeting on human resources hiring and retention practices to underserved communities. There is a need to meet with leadership in Education, Housing, Commerce and Trade to be involved with VLAB to push Governor's agenda. VLAB designees need to be selected two months before board's June meeting.

VLAB Vision Statement

The final vision statement was drafted: "We envision a Virginia that includes and advances the Latino community by promoting greater opportunities while acknowledging the contributions of the diverse cultural heritage to the Commonwealth." Diana moved to approve the statement, and Mike seconded the motion. Aida motioned to amend "Latino" to "Latinx," Diana seconded the motion. 10 voted in favor of the statement as amended, 2 against. The amended vision statement was approved. Juan will send Maribel background information on Latinx terminology to post on the website. Maribel will send a thank you letter to Carolina for working on the vision statement.

Strategic Leadership and Direction 2018

Diana suggested that we form regional committees in light of Governor Northam's new priorities and the need to plan forums.

In Governor Northam's letter, main points included: expand economic opportunity, open and accessible government, affordable housing, wage theft, state contract and procurement; and inclusion and representation in boards, commissions, and state government. Cecilia recommended initial research and fact-finding regarding main points to answer the questions:

- Who in government is responsible?

- What have they done so far?

- What are the gaps in the Latino community?

- What is VLAB's role to help support?

She asked that all research results be submitted by March 31 deadline to submit via Google Docs.

The Research Leads are:

- Chris – Wage Theft
- Mike – Affordable Housing
- Jorge – State Contract and Procurement
- Aida – Expand Economic Opportunity
- Aida – Inclusion and Representation in boards, commissions, and state government
- Gloria – Open and Accessible Government

Housing Law and Crisis
Justin provided an overview of issues related to affordable housing, focusing on the Uniform State-Wide Building Code (USBC) and fire codes.

Sharing of Information and Next Steps
Juan shared two upcoming events: DACA/Dreamers on March 9 and the Hispanic College Institute to be held from June 28 – July 1. Aida shared that 211 staff is looking for help to clean up their virtual directory. Chris shared that he will meet with Senator Tim Kaine on gun control and its effects in Fairfax.

Closing Remarks from 2017 Officers
Aida thanked the team for allowing her to lead. Chris and Diana also thanked the board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 1, 2018 in Virginia Beach. The Board will ask Secretaries to appoint designees as ex-officio members. FOIA will be discussed.

Meeting Adjournment

Aida motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cecilia seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.