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JANUARY 7, 2020

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## IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 7, 2020

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order: The Immigration Committee meeting was called or order by Amparo Guerrero, Acting Chair. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm, Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Roll Call reflects a quorum.

#### **Roll Call:**

#### PRESENT

Javier Rios, Chair  
Amparo Guerrero, Vice Chair  
Maria Cristina Lopez  
Ivan Cornejo  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca  
Val Whitley

#### NOT PRESENT:

Marcela Diaz, Excused

#### OTHERS PRESENT

George Carrasco, Staff Liaison  
Shelly Cohen, prospective member  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of the Agenda

***Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ivan Cornejo, motion carried by unanimous vote.***

3. Approval of the Minutes – December 3, 2019

***Mr. Cornejo moved to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes as presented, second by Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

4. Community Comments

No Comments. The Chair asked the committee members to encourage the public to come to a meeting if they have concerns. If there are any invitations, please bring to the Committee for consideration.

Ms. Cohen said that the Friends Committee is now certified to register voters. They also participate with Adelante, there is a desperate need for diapers. They are collecting

donations and they will distribute once they are purchased. Ms. Cohen said if there are events, they will make every effort to attend to register the public.

The Chair said that this is a crucial election year and she would like to make sure that the Spanish speaking community be educated on the importance of the election and making decisions. Immigration rules are very important. SOMOS is also very involved in citizenship project and voting. Ms. Lopez said that SOMOS are going door to door to inform the public about the census and providing the importance of voting.

## 5. New Business/Action

### a. Welcome and Introduction: Val Whitley, the new member of the Immigration Committee

Mr. Whitley stated that his interest in the Immigration Committee is personal and professional; he is a criminal defense attorney and works closely with SOMOS. He is bilingual and can explain complicated matters to his clients in Spanish. He talked about the difficulties that many face when they are in federal court jurisdiction. State court is a lot easier because many times they don't talk about citizenship, there are many judges that don't rule on that issue. There is a real problem with lack of Spanish speaking attorney's in Santa Fe which makes it difficult. He looks forward to making a contribution to the Immigration Committee. Mr. Whitley did address the question from the Chair regarding those who are incarcerated. Attorney's work together when they hear complaints and they talk to the Judges. It is very helpful to get names of those who are incarcerated, many of the federal prisoners are housed in the Santa Fe County jail. There are a lot of problems in many jails, and if anyone knows of a person, Mr. Whitley is ready to help. There are many medical problems for those who are incarcerated. Mr. Whitley would also like to know if the Mayor of Santa Fe collaborates with the Mayor's from other cities regarding the immigration issues.

Ms. Lopez said that the mission is to monitor the rights of the immigrants in our community and to assure that they are respected regardless of their place of origin. We worked with the city and the county to recognize the rights of the immigrants. Ms. Lopez also said that if there are questions the Mayor can also be invited to attend a meeting. We are a committee of record and we work through our commitments as discussed in each meeting.

The Chair said that she would like to propose discussion on asylum, care of those who are incarcerated, etc. and this information is good to educate the community on these matters and what can be done.

Mr. Whitley provided personal information on himself and his learning Spanish and travelling the state of New Mexico and classes in San Miguel de Allende. He has been in every state of Mexico several times and he loves the culture and the language.

Mr. Rios resumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca said she would like to do a breakout session in groups to discuss what are some of the items that are important to the people in their area/community. It would be good to get a concise picture of what the people need, who needs advocates, how can the committee assist. Staff will follow up on this request.

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2020

Mr. Rios said that it would be beneficial to have an orientation to discuss responsibilities. It would be important to have templates on reports and to be consistent in reporting. Committees could change based on the needs of the community. It would be nice to bring some food and beverages and create a fresh ambiance at a new meeting site.

Ms. Guerrero said it is important to reorganize the committees on work done and future work. Recommendation to hold a retreat, it would be good to have 2 hours for this meeting. Ms. Guerrero would like to have the retreat meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> for 3 hours.

Mr. Carrasco said this is a perfect time to create a structure and welcome packet of information for new members. The Resolution specifies who can serve on the committee and when they apply they provide a resume and letter of intent.

***Ms. Lopez moved to postpone the election of Chair and Vice Chair until February meeting, second by Ms. Guerrero.***

***Ms. Lopez amended her motion to postpone the election to the March meeting, second by Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.***

Follow up is for the Sub-Committee leads to present committee reports to the Staff Liaison for his review/evaluation and prepare an agenda for the retreat; work on a welcome packet for new members and to work on the templates for any documents that are for committee use.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca said that adding to the February meeting would be limiting and she recommended that we have a different location to hold the meeting. It would be nice to have a room with windows. New energy would be nice.

Suggested date and time: A Saturday from 9-12 or 4:30 to 6:30 at the Convention Center. Once the reports are received Staff will be in contact with the committee to firm up a retreat date, time and location.

6. Old Business

a. Subcommittee Updates:

- i. Welcoming Communities – Marcella Diaz  
No report.

ii. Education

Ms. Guerrero and Dr. Lujan

Dr. Lujan and Ms. Salbidrez came to Capital High and they were extremely helpful by answering questions. Dr. Lujan will be a permanent representative on the Education Committee per Dr. Veronica Garcia, Superintendent of SFPS.

Ms. Lopez said that Dr. Garcia had suggested a permanent Council that would meet 3 times a year to look over what is happening with the different community population. There was also a suggestion to have an Ombudsmen for Immigrants for the school system and the families. The superintendent has been very supportive. Ms. Guerrero said that there are tasks that need to be followed up on with SFPS.

Ms. Lopez talked about the gentleman who came to the Immigration Committee to talk about the soccer teams that he coaches and asked for help with space. SFPS and the city were collaborating, and the School Superintendent saw the need for this group. All together they collaborated and moved forward to help. They come through the Immigration Committee and the members and staff helped with information.

iii. Social Media & Communications.

Javier Rios: Nothing new to report. We are still trying to get access to post on FB, we would like more technological resources to disseminate information. The website is not user friendly.

Ms. Lopez said that she was looking for minutes on the city website. Mr. Carrasco said that the minutes are in the Immigration Committee page.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca stated that at a past meeting they had spoken to Julie Sanchez about what improvement are being made, she feels that it is pivotal to have the information for the public. Commitment was to have the technology in place for social media today and it is not active. There is a constant need and pressure, and when we talk to the city we don't move forward.

Mr. Carrasco said that the city is moving in the right direction and there should be results very soon for the Immigration Committee.

Mr. Rios said he can also help maintain the page as he has the expertise and is happy to maintain the page.

iv. Santa Fe Police Department

No report.

7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members

Chair Rios said that whoever is the new Chair and Vice Chair, they, together with the staff liaison should put a time stamp on the agenda items. We need to give time allotments for the items so we can respect others time and the stenographers. Chair Rios works with UNM Project Echo, they train medical providers to serve the community. He explained how they can build their own capacity to serve the community. Mr. Rios will work to do a presentation at a future meeting and possibly have someone from Echo make a presentation in 2020.

Mr. Cornejo said that the Santa Fe Community Foundation will do a press release on grants that have been provided. For this press release they were asking for a quote from the Immigration Committee. Quote will be sent to Mr. Carrasco to assure it is done by this Friday.

8. Report from Staff

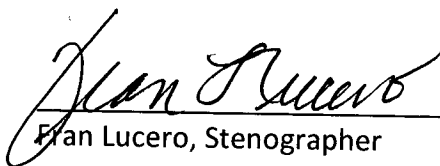
Done throughout the meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the Chair called to adjourn at 6:00 pm.

**SIGNATURE PAGE:**

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Javier Rios, Chair

  
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Juan Lucero, Stenographer