

Committee on Border Relations

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Main Conference Room (City Hall)
April 22, 2019
4:00 P.M.

Board Members in Attendance:

Arturo Barrio
Kathleen Staudt
Mario Porras
Valeria Contreras
Carla Owen
Kenna Ramirez
Fabiola Campos Lopez

Staff Members Present:

Lydia Nesbitt-Arronte
Eduardo Garcia
Roberta Brito
Darlene Barajas

MINUTES

1.) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

2.) Administrative Items:

Introductions – Board of Director Members and Staff

Board members and City of El Paso staff take turns introducing themselves.

(a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2019

The committee motioned and approved the minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting.

3.) Discussion:

(a) Dropbox

The committee was asked if they had access and knew how to navigate the Dropbox. The committee responded that they could access the documents being shared with the committee through this technology.

4.) Discussion and Action:

(a) Bylaws

There will be changes to the bylaws. Arturo Barrio, Chair will be sending the specific language to be modified. The bylaws will be modified to reflect officer elections during the month of April. Mario Porras suggested the language become more border region friendly.

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(b) Officer Election

Nominations for Committee Chair

Arturo Barrio was nominated for Committee Chair. The Committee motioned and approved the appointment of Arturo Barrio as Chair of the Border Relations Committee.

The nominee, Mr. Barrio gave a brief statement about his background.

- Worked for the Mexican government for 13 years
- 2015 –Present UTEP Latin American Support
- Sister Cities Committee Member

Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Mario Porras and Valeria Contreras were nominated for Committee Vice-Chair. Each nominee gave a brief statement about their background.

- Mario Porras
 - 2004 UTEP Grad
 - Worked in the maquiladora sector side of logistics for a Japanese automotive company
 - Owned a small business for five years
 - Worked on Beto O'Rourke's campaign included projects with CBP, US Customs and binational related projects throughout 2016
 - Director of International Affairs for El Paso Community Foundation
- Valeria Contreras
 - Works in Public Policy for the City of El Paso
 - Binational affairs
 - Worked US Mexico border summit to bring Elected regional electives to the table to discuss healthcare
 - Honors degree International Studies in Chicago
 - Studied in Oaxaca, Mexico

The committee voted by unanimous secret ballot. The votes were counted five for Mr. Porras and two for Ms. Contreras. Mario Porras won by majority vote. The committee motioned and approved the appointment of Mario Porras for Vice-Chair of the Border Relations Committee.

5.) Identification of Items for Future Agenda

- Creation of Committees & Subcommittees
- Each member is to provide four priority areas to be worked
- Identify goals for this committee
- Share some existing models, binational mechanisms
- Provide documents to understand the history of the Border Relations Committee
- Announcements section is to be added to future agendas
- Roberta Brito will do a presentation on "Open Meetings Act"
- Modifications will be made to the Bylaws to include official elections to take place in April.
- Invite representatives from other committees Ex; Rep. Peter Svarzbein

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Open Discussion

- The committee discussed and agreed to their CV's to be shared with committee members to familiarize themselves with each other's backgrounds.
- The committee was interested in knowing if Videoconference Call is was an option when traveling.
- The committee wants to know how many absences are allowed before being removed from the committee.
- The question was asked if the group could attend a luncheon with the Mayor of Juarez on May 8th. Roberta Brito, Legal responded that members may attend as separate entities but, the group is prohibited from discussing business outside of this meeting forum.
- The committee asked what the minimum time required to change a meeting date was. The answer given was 72 hours as the agenda needs to be posted online for public viewing.
- It was stated that the City of El Paso Economic Development Department's role is to support the committee.

6.) Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Approved: _____

Recording Secretary