

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Citizens' Oversight Committee

Thursday, September 14, 2006, 6:30 p.m. Board Room

MINUTES

6:35 - Dr. Rose Marie Joyce introduces herself to the members of the Citizens Oversight Committee that are gathered for the meeting. Dr. Joyce mentions that she has a prior obligation, but wanted to thank the Committee for all of their work on behalf of the College. Dr. Joyce introduces Teresa Dreyfuss and Dr. Steve Lohr to the Committee. Ms. Dreyfuss is the liaisons from the college to serve this committee. Again, she thanks the Committee for their work and excuses herself.

I. Call To Order

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Oscar Payan led the pledge

C. Roll Call

Oscar Payan (Chair), John Diaz, Sr., John Gonzales, Sam Guyan, Robert Lawe, Patricia Romero, and Matthew Dorn

Staff members: Teresa Dreyfuss, Dr. Steve Lohr, Peter Mitsakos, Karl Schrader, and James Sohn

D. Open Communication for Public Comment

There was no request for open comment

E. Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2006

The minutes were approved

II. Reports

A. Introduction of New Members Robert Lawe and Matthew Dorn and Self Introductions of All Attendees

1. Robert Lawe has worked and lived in El Monte since 1958. He was a school teacher and has also served on the Boards of the Southern California Credit Unions and the San Gabriel Valley Credit Union
2. Matthew Dorn ran for President of the Student Body and lost by a narrow margin. He is very involved with student government and serves on the student senate of Rio Hondo College.

B. Update of the Master Plan and Campus Tour

Peter Mitsakos the Technical Advisor to the Administration for the Master Plan explains the Master Plan in detail to the Committee. Over the past year and half the College has been developing a Master Plan from the Vision Plan that was developed prior to the Bond even being past. At this point the Board of Trustees will approve the Environmental Impact Report and the master Plan at their September 20, 2006 Board Meeting. Some of the goals of the Master Plan are to improve the connections between the quads, parking and the main campus, and transit to the main campus. Mr. Mitsakos added that parking structures have not been taken out of the plan but have been moved into the second phase of

building programs so that Bond monies can be maximized to build classroom space. The Committee asked about the schedule for building construction and requested that they be provided with updated construction schedules at each of the COC meetings. Mr. Mitsakos explained that even though the LRC would be the first building to break ground the Central Plant will be built simultaneously and will be completed before the LRC. He also spoke about the Applied Technology and Student Services buildings and the importance of lighting, outdoor spaces, and signage.

At 7:07 pm the Committee left for a tour of the Rio Hondo College campus. During the tour both Mr. Mitsakos and Dr. Lohr discussed the new Administrative Justice Building, parking, the new sidewalks, stairs and walkways, the new transit plaza, as well as the open spaces within the quads.

The Committee returned to the Board Room at 7:47 and the meeting continued.

C. Update on the Environmental Impact Report

Dr. Lohr speaks about the Environmental Impact Report. An EIR is required by the State of California for any construction that may have an affect on the environment. The COC has gotten a copy of the EIR on CD as well as the hard copies of the report are available in libraries and community centers through out the District.

Dr. Lohr also shared with the COC that parking has been a challenge at every college that he has worked for. Rio Hondo College realized that parking was a problem and conducted parking surveys. The surveys found that there were several empty parking spaces on the campus. The range was 17% during the morning peak hours to 33% in the evening peak hours, which indicated that there is parking available but that parking is not the most convenient location. The COC question the petition that has been circulated by the ASB to students asking the Board of Trustees to reconsider the placing of Parking Structures into the Priority Two category. Dr. Lohr explained that it is more a question of what do you do now and what do you do later. Some of the mitigation programs need to run their course so then the priority of parking can be re-evaluated.

A further question was posed in regards to the Library Tower. The COC members asked how many classrooms would be possible in the Library Tower which is currently under consideration for State funds. Mr. Mitsakos told the committee that each floor of the Library could house up to six classrooms in addition to a conference room and faculty offices. The elevator service, which Mr. Dorn asked about, will need to be completely re-done as a part of this extensive remodel.

Mr. Lawe asked if the construction of elevators and/or pedestrian walks have been considered in the building plans. Mr. Schrader confirmed that both were considered but they may not be considered a Priority 1 project and not feasible from an economical standpoint.

Mr. Lawe asked if the plans included the potential for elevators and/or pedestrian walks to eliminate the need to retrofit in the future. Mr. Schrader confirmed that the plans included the potential for elevators and/or pedestrian walks.

D. Bond Financial Update

The Bond Financial Update was address by Ms. Dreyfuss. Ms. Dreyfuss reviewed the "Bond Measure "A" Projects Expenditure Summary as of 6/30/06" report and noted the summary at the beginning of the report. Ms. Dreyfuss offered to review the report in detail, with any interested committee members.

III. Election of Officers for 2006-07

Ms. Romero suggested postponing the elections until more members are present. Mr. Payan indicated that the elections were previously postponed due to the same reason and suggested going forward with elections.

Mr. Payan nominated Sylvia Southerland for the position of Chair. Ms. Romero seconded the motion.

Mr. Payan nominated John Gonzales for the position of Vice Chair. Ms. Romero seconded the motion.

There were no objections to the nominations.

IV. 2006-07 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Dreyfuss suggested scheduling the next Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting on Thursday, December 21st, after the 2nd December Rio Hondo College Board Meeting. However, the date conflicted with holiday schedules. Ms. Dreyfuss then suggested Thursday, December 14th and the committee members agreed upon this date. Meeting time will be 6:30 p.m. in the Rio Hondo College Board Room.

V. Comments from Committee Members

Ms. Dreyfuss passed out gift bags to all in attendance. The gift bags included Rio Hondo promotional items.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting was re-opened at 8:16 p.m.

Ms. Dreyfuss noted the college's negotiation of satellite spaces in neighboring cities including: El Monte, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier.

Ms. Guyan questioned if there have been any discussions regarding the naming of the new center after Dr. Putnam.

Mr. Schrader offered that there have been discussions regarding the naming of the new center and that the plaques in the Putnam Center are being photographed and assembled prior to the demolition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.