



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting
October 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Rory Respico at 3:45pm. There were five members present at the time as member Lisa Baza was previously in attendance, but had to return to her office to lock it up. There was a motion made the Acting Chairman to excuse those members who were off island testifying at the United Nations, having surgery, or on official business. Motion was seconded by Mayor Gumataotao. Thus, the Acting Chairman proceeded to discuss the agenda.

There was a suggested correction in the last meeting minutes of September 1st whereby member Jose Garrido stated that he doesn't recall making the statement that the \$10,000 fee to Attorney Julian Aguon was too much, so that part of the minutes was corrected.


As for the grant application to the Department of Interior via Congresswomen Madeleine Bordallo's office, the Executive Director explained that as a result of a meeting between Governor Calvo and the Congresswomen, there was an agreement of cooperation and that the grant application will be submitted through her office. The executive director will find out who the commission will be working with in the delegates office to complete this task. Since there already exists a draft of an application, the Executive Director requested that those members (Bevacqua and Natividad) who worked on the draft before, assemble and update the application and forward it accordingly.


Roll call was taken at this time as member Lisa Baza returned. Members present were:

1. Acting Chairman Respicio
2. Mayor Vicente Gumataotao
3. Jose Garrido (Task force Chairman- Free Association)
4. Michael Bevacqua (Task Force Chairman- (Independence)
5. Leonardo Orsini -Youth Congress Vice-Speaker
6. Lisa Baza


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The Free Association task force turn in their updated membership listing. The listings from the task force on Independence and Statehood are pending and will be turned in promptly.

The High School Decolonization debate was the next item up for discussion and the Executive Director relayed that there is a scheduled meeting with GDOE deputy Superintendent Ereika Cruz along with all the public high school principals. The purpose will be to explain the debate program and find out what high schools are interested. Timelines will be established and venues will be determined. The letter signed by the Governor will also be presented at that meeting. Additionally, the Executive Director mentioned he would reach out to the Guam Bar Association to see if they can provide volunteer attorneys for this event. Jose Garrido stated that while he believes the debate is inconsistent with the decolonization process, he is not saying to do it. He felt the Decolonization process must be laid out first in order for a foundation to be set for the students. There needs to be an understanding between the "Self" in determination versus the "Options" Acting Chairman felt that the Task force Chairman's need to meet the students to prepare them for status option discussions. Member Bevacqua stated that debate is part of the Decolonization process. Acting Chairman Respicio suggested that it be part of the debate, to which there was objection by several members. Member Garrido felt the who, what, when, and where is most important, but member Bevacqua clearly announced that the history is clear, debating who votes is not a debate, to which Mayor Gumataotao exclaimed that any debate is good. Member Baza said the process is clear, anyone can have a debate, but fears that no one will represent Free Association. When asked if any of his task force would like to participate, member Garrido said no. Member Bevacqua stated that the Commission educates on the political status options, that is the job at hand and not to talk about who gets to vote. A big part of the debate is about the status options not process. Member Orsini chimed in stating that a debate is meant to inform and is educational.

During open discussion Member Garrido asked about the Commission's response to the Record of Decision signed in June of this year. Acting Chairman Respicio suggested the Commission not conflict with ourselves by taking a position on this as member Bevacqua was willing to change the draft so that it doesn't sound like we are taking a stance. Mayor Gumataotao felt our responsibility is to get the information out to the public.

A motion was made to make changes to the draft by member Bevaqua and seconded by member Baza. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5pm.



EDWARD A. ALVAREZ
Commission on Decolonization
Executive Director