



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Commission Meeting Agenda

June 19, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. Roll Call

- Governor Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman
- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman
- Sen. Fernando Esteves
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association
- Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Independence
- Dewey Huffer, Statehood
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large
- Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-at-Large

II. Approval of Minutes: May 1, 2018

- **Motion to accept – Dr. Natividad. No objections.**

III. Continuing Business

- **Executive Director's Report**

–Work session last Tuesday – Possibility of providing testimony digitally. It was approved. The actual testimony will be done at 2am. Guam will provide testimony via video conference. Executive Director will read testimony on behalf of the Governor. Testimony is attached. There were no changes or edits. It will be on behalf of the Governor. Comments on the Draft Resolution were sent to all C-24 members. We will be doing a digital presentation at 2 am Guam-time. We are the first non-self-governing territory to do this.

–Sen. Esteves – Is there a reason we got word so late? I am supportive of the changes. I am glad you were able to catch that. Because we know the UN schedule is a bit fluid, we can mark this date for the future.

–Executive Director – (*Addressing prior questions*) - Because your positions as Commission members is voluntary, it does not affect your ability to participate in campaigns.



- **Financial Report**

- Financial report is attached.

- **Task Force Updates**

- Free Association Task Force – Adrian Cruz, Chairman*

- o Working on podcasts - It can garner up to 6-10,000 views and listens – much more than village meetings.

- Independence Task Force – Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Chairman*

- o Ayuda I Manyainata War Claims Event
 - a. Last month we helped 85 people fill out their war claims forms.
 - o General Assemblies
 - a. Next Thursday, June 28, 6pm - we will be honoring Richard Taitano and talking about how we could bring in elements of indigenous government similar to other islands
 - o Haleta Hikes
 - a. Pagat this Saturday at 9 a.m.
 - o Podcasts
 - a. We had a successful fino' CHamoru podcast last week. We are trying to engage politicians.
 - o Na'la'la' Concert
 - a. July 4, Adelup

- Statehood Task Force – Dewey Huffer, Member*

- o Working towards general meeting with our new statehood members.
 - o Float at the liberation parade - pass out fliers
 - a. Mayor Hoffman – The fees will be waived. All task forces could have floats at the parade. Please fill out the forms. There are some briefings that will be read by PBS, so be sure to do that. You have a chance to educate those at home as well. You may also want to contact DPR about possibly getting a spot along parade route for the Commission.
 - o Working on revamp of the website, possible social media platform
 - o Adrian Cruz – Do you know the other members of your task force? Do you have the required 7 members? If you started this again, could you have seven people constitute a group? Is that a possibility?



- o Chairman – The only changes that can be made with membership are within the task force itself. If you don't feel that some folks can participate for whatever reasons, you have to make this decision.
- o Vice Chairwoman – They need to work it out among themselves. The chairs have been active.
- o Dr. Bevacqua – if I remember the law correctly, it's very vague. There is no process which indicates how the task forces form themselves. It leaves the possibility that if a group is not effectively representing a status option, the commission could recognize a different group to represent the status.
- o Sen. Esteves – I think any issues should be addressed within the task force and not here. I don't want the record to reflect that we are taking a position on your task force.
- o Chairman – I've talked to the chairs, and they've been on the Commission for so long. After 20 years of pushing, it can be taxing. Both have been committed for so long, and they have not seen progress over the years, so I understand their frustrations. It's nice to see someone young a part of this advocacy. Thank you so much.

- **Work Sessions**

- Next meeting: July 3

- Next work session: July 10 – regroup on UN.

- o We are interacting with the UN so much more – we want to keep those relationships

IV. New Business

- Na'la'la': Songs of Freedom Concert

- The first na'la'la concert, we had 800 people showed up. The second concert will be July 4. We have it there because of the significance in terms of public mobilization and community protest and outreach.

- We are inviting the Commission and other task forces to set up a table. Attendees will be interested in political status change. We will have tents, tables, and chairs. Just bring your materials.

V. Open Discussion

- Sen. Esteves – Was the pamphlet passed out at the gubernatorial debate from the Commission?



- Adrian Cruz – That was from Statehood.
- Sen. Esteves – I wasn't sure if it was provided by the University or the Commission. I think it's important that information put out by COD or the task forces is up to date.
- Vice Speaker – I think it's important when it's clear that when we're acting, we're acting by majority vote, and that we have decided what we want to be represented with when represented at places. For example, this regional seminar – our Director said she represented the Governor, but the paper show she's representing the Commission. You did a good job, but I have to say that this Commission needs to be on top of the deadlines and plan in advance. We need to stay united and move forward. The discussion we need to have to get there is very important.
- Executive Director – I did not represent the Commission. The invitation goes to the highest state official, who is the Governor. I did send out my testimony prior to presenting. We have been open about communicating with the members and we want to keep that. We will continue to send emails to all Commission members in the future.
- Dr. Natividad – I think we should start talking about October. You should add that to the agenda.
- Vice Chairwoman – we need to start preparing our testimony. If we are inadequate in research, we know where, or if we need consensus we can see which parts need to be worked on.
- Dr. Natividad – I think the Committee's draft is already adopted. For the next two weeks, they're receiving testimonies. I have been trying to grapple with when we influence the resolution. The UN themselves will never come to us and ask for feedback. There is a very small window. Part of the question for October is – can we afford to go? If we need to talk about resources now, then we need to have that conversation now. Digital Testimony is great and has never been done by a NSG Territory, but we do lose out on meeting with the different ambassadors to garner support. I suggest that we put the C4 as an agenda item in the July Meeting so we can start drafting a statement.
- Vice Chairwoman – we were disturbed to hear that the draft is pretty much done by the time the meeting in October occurs. We have to regroup and stick to the principle that we need to all agree to move forward. We should also put together a list of people we think we should visit while we are there – as well as who is on the Committee.



- Chairman – Things may or may not happen with the Davis cases by October. I think it's important that we are kept up to date about how things are and reporting to the UN the status of both cases.
- Rita Franquez – Everyone is talking about all these things, but this plebiscite doesn't count anyway. That should be made clear to the people. Statehood – has anyone asked the US if they will allow us to join their union? Maybe you should ask for formality. I don't think we will ever get a response. Why are we doing floats? It's a tradition of subservience. I think we should find out if these are real options. If it is not, education about it is a farce.

VI. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn – Sen. Esteves. No objection.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.