RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room
Informational Meeting

Minutes

I. Call To Order

a. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance – COC Member Irina Barajas led the Pledge of Allegiance.


d. Open Communication for Public Comment - There were no public comments.

e. Approval of Minutes - December 6, 2012 – The COC committee voted to approve the minutes.

f. Facilities Tour - The group boarded a campus bus for a facilities tour. The tour first stopped at the Administration of Justice Building. It then continued to the almost completed Physical Education Complex. The group toured the new fitness center new offices and classrooms, three dance studios, media center, and locker rooms. They viewed the still-in-construction pools (a 12-lane Olympic competition pool and a therapy pool) and the location of the six new tennis courts.

g. Reports

a. President’s Update: Since Prop 30 passed the College has been able to maintain classes its offers and will make no class reductions for next year either, said Teresa Dreyfuss. We also finished negotiations for classified staff. Dreyfuss mentioned the success of the 50th Anniversary Campus Birthday party and Time Capsule Installation and thanked Irina Barajas for her help with the event. She asked the committee members to attend the April 19 Anniversary Event.

Teresa Dreyfuss said the 2012 annual report was mailed to 135,000 community households. She said that information about the COC Bond Fund status in the report must be included by law. Within the report she
pointed out the Flex Day staff photo and mentioned that the “Our History” photo-essay book is available at the bookstore for $40.

b. **Building Program Progress Report:** Jerome Quemada provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the progress in the Building Program. He pointed out that none of the project went over budget and that funds are still available for the softball and soccer field projects. Program Manager Luis Rojas said the biggest partners to the Building Program are the students and he thanked them for their cooperation.

After the presentation Richard Garner said that he lives nearby the new El Monte Educational Center and has watched its progress. He said the Center is well situated across from El Monte High School and will allow students there to easily take classes at the Center and then transition to RHC.

Teresa Dreyfuss said the El Monte Educational Center Grand Opening will take place on Thursday, May 2 at 11 a.m.

c. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report:** Teresa Dreyfuss pointed out an error on the Bond Measure “A” Projects Expenditure Summary: the “QTD” column should read Sept - Dec instead of Jul – Sep. She said the College is pretty much finished with Phase One of the Building Program and is moving into Phase Two. The College has applied to the State for $12 million in matching funds to renovate Wray Theater and $16 million in matching funds for the Arts building and is hoping to get $12 million in State matching funds to renovate the Business Building. Now that PE staff once housed in the Library Building has moved into the new PE building, the Seismic Retrofit of the Library Building can begin. Renovation of the College Bookstore is another upcoming project. Teresa Dreyfuss said the College also wants to build a structure/space for students who are waiting for the buses. “We are thinking of everything for the students,” she added.

Francisco Hidalgo said the appearance of all the building is that the College is overflowing with students and the new buildings will accommodate that demand. He asked if there was a desire to expand in this way.

Teresa Dreyfuss said the College is trying to stay status quo but the State encourages Colleges to use technology to offer online and hybrid classes and this is indeed a way to help decongest the classrooms. Rather than accommodate more students on campus, the college aims to accommodate more students by building additional community educational centers.

Luis Rojas added that the College is landlocked and has space issues and the cost to build on the hill is prohibitive. They would rather put more resources into the curriculum and improving technology.

Francisco Hidalgo said he worked with city colleges in the 1970s and ‘80s and his observation is that community colleges experience large enrollments in September and January but the students diminish as the
semester wears on. He asked if there was a way to study how online and hybrid classes could help with student retention. Teresa Dreyfuss said the College is trying to accommodate students as best it can. She mentioned the new “drop for nonpayment of fees” and how it opens up spaces for other eligible students.

h. Round Table Comments

Dr. Joseph Rivera said the Building Program progress has been tremendous.

Dr. Francisco Hidalgo said this is his first COC meeting and he too is impressed with the progress. Many four-year universities would love to have your state-of-the-art facility, he said. They continue to be a source of pride and students are proud to say that they transferred from Rio Hondo College.

Teresa Dreyfuss added that she was recently a Principal for a Day at Sparks Elementary school and though the school has done an impressive job in raising their API scores but their facilities are very old.

Alejandro Izarraraz said that the progress is awesome and he is impressed by Teresa too.

Irina Barajas informed the committee that it’s her last COC; she will be leaving the campus in May.

Mary Ellen Witt said that she enjoyed the tour and is looking forward to seeing the El Monte Educational Center.

Richard Garner said he is amazed by what the College has achieved without going over budget. He told Teresa Dreyfuss that the College should complete a study of how it was able to avoid cost overruns, especially considering the fiascos that have marked building programs at other colleges. He suggested Rio Hondo engage a class or a group of classes to put down the procedures and market the information to other colleges.

i. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. Teresa Dreyfuss added that the meeting will include a tour of the El Monte Educational Center.

j. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.