Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chair Andrew Moraga led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Roll Call – Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Vice Chair Andrew Moraga, Leonel Barrera, Jr., Josefina Canchola, Christian Diaz, Carolina “Caro” Jauregui, Alicia Marie Lopez, Owen Newcomer, Margie Rodriguez, and Dr. Monica Sanchez. Committee Members absent: Jose Herrera and Alejandro Robles.

d. Welcome and Introductions – All COC Members present introduced themselves and stated who appointed them to the committee. The following new members at the meeting were welcomed: Caro Jauregui and Leonel Barrera, Jr.

e. Open Communication for Public Comment – None

f. Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2018 – The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Newcomer made motion to approve; Member Canchola seconded.

II. Reports/Presentations

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: Member Canchola nominated Moraga for Chair. Vice Chair Moraga nominated Dr. Monica Sanchez to replace him as Vice Chair. After discussion, Member Canchola nominated herself for Vice Chair. The committee unanimously voted Vice Chair Moraga for Chair. Member Dr. Sanchez then gave a background of herself, followed by Member Canchola for the Vice Chair position. Votes for Vice Chair were casted via secret ballot by the members. Chair Moraga counted the votes. The votes were split 4-4 as there was one abstention. It was decided by President Teresa Dreyfuss and newly elected Chair Andrew
Moraga that a re-election for Vice-Chair would take place during the next meeting in December as there were two members missing at the meeting.

b. President’s Update: Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:

1) Rio Promise: The Rio Promise Second Year Launch of Two Years of Free Tuition was a grand success. The event took place the morning of September 25th in the Board Room, which was filled to capacity and overflowed into the lobby area. Rio Hondo College is the first community college in LA County to offer two years of free tuition to first-time, full-time college students in California. Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Assemblymember Ed Chau, and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia all attended and presented Rio Hondo College with State Assembly commendations. Many other elected officials including Congressmembers, County Supervisors, and local elected officials sent their representatives to also present Rio Hondo College with commendations. El Monte, El Rancho, Tri-Citi Corp., La Puente/Hacienda, Mountain View, and Whittier Superintendents all attended. Two Rio Promise students from Year 1 shared their powerful testimonies on how Rio Promise has helped them stay on track to transferring next year to UCLA and to the University of Washington. The event received great media coverage from ABC7, Univision, Whittier Daily News and many other media outlets.

2) Facts and Numbers: President Dreyfuss referred to a data sheet that each member received, which was the same data that was distributed during the Rio Promise launch. She went over these facts and numbers, in detail, line by line. She also added that Rio Hondo College offers lifetime medical benefits to staff and faculty who have worked at the College for 15 years or more, and to their respective one dependent. The College met the OPEE unfunded liability last year. This is a testament of the College being fiscally strong and having a balanced budget.

3) Retirement: President Dreyfuss shared her retirement announcement, effective July 1, 2019 after 32 years of service, including the last 7 years as Superintendent/President. President Dreyfuss shared that when she started as Superintendent/President, the average life was 3.4 years for a Superintendent/President of any community college. And, President Dreyfuss has already doubled this average. Her announcement to the Board in August of 2018 gave the Board 10 months to search for a replacement.
Member Canchola thanked President Dreyfuss for her service. She would like to make the recommendation that community representation be included in the upcoming Presidential Search Committee.

President Dreyfuss explained that the College Administrative Procedures include community representation on the Presidential Search Committee.

c. **Building Program Progress Report:** Jerome Quemada of Del Terra provided a report on the Building Program, which includes the following current and upcoming projects:

1) **L-Tower Seismic Upgrade** – Mr. Quemada informed the committee that the fire lane is 95% completed, a Division of State Architect (DSA) requirement, including the placement of fire hydrants. Installation of new exterior steel plates to support the building prior to the removal of concrete panels is ongoing. Pictures were shown of the fire lane, construction development, and the interior demolition of all the rooms, ceilings and walls. A rendering of what the L Tower building will look like after the completion of construction was also shown.

2) **Rio Plaza** – Mr. Quemada reported that the Rio Plaza project construction documents have been submitted to DSA. DSA comments are pending. A rendering of the Rio Plaza was shown, which illustrates the tram stop and wheelchair accessibility.

Member Diaz asked for the anticipated start date of the Rio Plaza project.

Mr. Quemada informed the committee that the College cannot start a project without DSA approval. At this stage the College is real close in getting DSA approval.

Chair Moraga asked where are we in the queue to receive DSA approval.

Mr. Quemada said he does not know.

Member Dr. Sanchez asked about the wildlife in the area. Will there be any restrictions or delays due to the wildlife?

Mr. Quemada said that although rattlesnakes and skunks were found, neither restricted nor delayed construction.

d. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports:** President Dreyfuss explained there are two reports in the Bond Measure A packet. The first report is the Projects Expenditure Summary that summarizes each project expenditure...
from April to June 2018. The second report is the Project Details that breaks down the project by each vendor.

The College has spent $176,742,759 so far with $214,875 being spent from April to June 2018 (QTD).

Member Barrera, Jr. asked if any of the contractors are minority-owned or veteran-owned.

President Dreyfuss replied that the District is obliged to select the lowest bidder and then analyze the bio package of each bidder.

Member Jauregui asked when was Bond Measure A approved and when will it sunset.

President Dreyfuss replied that voters approved $245 million in 2004 through Measure A without a sunset date and that the College received approximately $70 million from the state fund. In 2020, the College plans to go for another bond.

e. Other Business: None

f. Future Meeting Date and Place: The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. President Dreyfuss reminded the members to wear their best as the annual report picture will be taken by a professional photographer at the beginning of the meeting.

III. Comments from Committee Members

Chair Moraga reminded everyone to get out and vote in November.

Member Diaz welcomed all the new members. He applauded Rio Hondo College for the opportunity they are giving to high school and first-time college students to attend Rio Hondo for free for the first two years.

Member Rodriguez thanked President Dreyfuss for the wonderful meals the College has provided at the COC meetings.

Member Dr. Sanchez invited the members to the Pico Rivera Golf Club Open House on Saturday, September 29, from 12-3 p.m. where hot dogs and drinks will be served for free, and door prizes will be provided. Pico Rivera’s Veterans Day Celebration will take place on November 11.
Member Canchola announced an upcoming young women’s professional development conference. She asked President Dreyfuss to consider sponsoring a few Rio Hondo College students. She also mentioned that the Puente Project at Rio Hondo College is still looking for more mentors.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. Member Diaz moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Rodriguez seconded.