

Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 5:30-7:00 pm

This meeting was held in the Hooker Conference Room (Suite 245, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St). The meeting was called to order at approximately **5:37 pm**. Commission members present in person: **Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Jimena Holguin, and Claudia Lara**. Commission members present over Zoom: **Raquel Anderson and Dinorah Sapp**. Commission members absent: **Javier Rosales, Gabriela Puscama**. City staff and elected officials present: [Ximena Martinez](#)

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Mariella Arredondo	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Jimena Holguin	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Claudia Lara	Mayor	6/26/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Marlo Libel	Mayor	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Dinorah Sapp	Common Councils	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Raquel Anderson	Common Councils	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Javier Rosales	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Vacant	Common Councils	5/7/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Gabriela Puscama	Common Councils	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 – 1/31/2028

Were members of the public present: **NO**

Roll Call: Marlo, Mariella, Jimena, Claudia. On zoom: Raquel, Dinorah.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes: Jimena Holguin moved to approve the agenda and minutes. Marlo Libel approved the motion, and Mariella Arredondo seconded the motion.

Public/Public Comment: Mayor Kerry Thomson

The Commission talked with Mayor Thomson about the main issues impacting the Latino community in Bloomington. The conversation will continue in the future to strengthen the collaboration between the Mayor's Office and the Commission. One idea is to invite Mayor Thomson to meet with the Commission two or three times a year. This would help us continue the conversation and build a stronger collaboration. We can also invite the Mayor to events organized by the Commission, including forums, workshops, and other events.

Reports

1. Staff

A. La Fiesta del Otoño: The event had great attendance, with even more people attending than in previous years. An estimated 850 people attended. It was a great success.

B. Commissioner Training: The Commissioner Training took place on September 30, 2026, at the same time as the Commission meeting. One Commissioner who needed to attend the training could not attend because of a scheduling conflict. Ximena will follow up with Jenniffer about this.

C. Commissioner Membership: José Fuentes was removed due to non-attendance. There is now one open position on the Commission.

D. MCCSC meeting: MCCSC organized a meeting with Latino leaders in the community to hear and address their concerns. Ximena Martinez attended the meeting. Shelley from HealthNet has been designated as the main contact for questions and concerns from the community.

2. Health Subcommittee

A. Healthy Eating Workshop for Families with Verónica Samba: TBD

B. Next Mental Health Workshop with Luciana: November 14, 2026.

3. Education Subcommittee

A. MCCSC enrollment, FAFSA & Century 21 Century Scholars initiatives. NO updates

4. Public Relations / Civic Engagement

A. Latiné Recognition Awards: We discussed the possibility of having the Latiné Recognition Awards as a standalone event, separate from La Fiesta del Otoño. Ximena mentioned that we could have the event in the spring and that she can reserve the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. However, we need to determine a date soon so we can start the planning process. We need to create a subcommittee that can take this on as a project and start working on the planning. Mariella and Raquel volunteered. We will also ask Gabriela, Javier, and Dinorah if any of them would like to be part of the subcommittee.

B. Bloomington City Council Public Safety Community Deliberation Spanish-speaking table partner. Marlo Libel participated and mentioned that nobody attended the Spanish-speaking table.

Additional Items: Given the holidays in November and December, we agreed to move the November 25 meeting to November 18 and the December 30 meeting to December 16.

Adjournment: 7:01 p.m.