



Board Minutes

Acceso Spanish Language Advisory Board
First Meeting/Retreat

Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 9:00AM – 1:00PM
STEAM on the Platte - 1401 Zuni St, Denver, CO 80204

Acceso Board Members Present: Maite L., Vallerie B., Hilda G., Angelica G., Maria Jose T., Paola G., Marisa K.

Not present: *Erika C., Salvador C.*

OCR Staff: Sonya U., Daniela A., Flaviano G., and Clerk López

1. Meeting Called to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 9:15AM

2. Acceso Community Altar & Introductions

- a. Acceso members introduced themselves as well as their item community altar item.
- b. Clerk López visited Acceso members at the retreat and gave a welcome.

3. Review the Municipal Code – Article VII. – Acceso–Spanish Language Voter Advisory Board and Corresponding Responsibilities

- a. Sonya presenting overview of Municipal Code
 - i. Composition: Minimum of 7 and maximum of 15 members; 30% bilingual Spanish
 - ii. Appointment: Appointed by Clerk and confirmed by simple majority
 - iii. Demographics: should mirror Denver’s Latino Community
 - iv. Terms: 3-year terms and a term limit of 3 consecutive terms
 - v. Officers: Chairperson and other duly elected officers; terms set by board
 - vi. Meetings: minimum of quarterly meetings; open meeting requirement
 - vii. Quorum: simple majority of appointed members
 - viii. Attendance: unexcused absence of three consecutive meetings is considered a board resignation
 1. Board discussed what the difference between unexcused vs excused.
 - a. Excused = send a text or phone call as to why a board member is not present qualifies as excused.
 - b. Unexcused = no text or phone call was given to board chair or vice chair.
 - ix. Resignation requirement: board member becomes a candidate for an elected office on Denver ballot.
- b. Discussion of election judge recruitment
 - i. Demographics of election judges in 2024 (race/ethnicity):



1. 74% White
 2. 5.5% Latino
 3. 8.3% African American
 4. 2.2% API
 5. .6% American Indian
 6. 2.3% Multiracial
- ii. Demographics of election judges in 2024 (generational representation)
 - iii. On call staff
 1. 53% Baby Boomers
 2. 17% GenX
 3. 12.5% Millennials
 4. 6.5% GenZ
 5. 9.4% Silent Generation (1928 - 1949)

4. Strategic Planning Session for Acceso 2025

- a. Advancing Democracy: Voter Participation
 - i. Programming that addresses civic engagement beyond the ballot. More intentional resources at events for voter participations.
 - ii. Training on how to do voter engagement for Acceso board.
- b. Advocacy & Compliance
 - i. Re-asses the committees on Acceso Board
 1. Having a point person from the board who can give updates to and from the board.
 - ii. Compliance committee – quarterly check in with Ben from OCR.
 - iii. Staying in compliance with social media and website.
- c. Language Access
 - i. Attract a more representation of candidates on the board.
 1. Non-English speakers
 - ii. Spanish speakers are being asked to perform duties that they are not qualified nor being compensated for this.
 - iii. Translations companies within the office. Having a pool of contractors and reviewing materials.
 1. Limited English Proficient community, letting them know they also have a space at the table.
 - iv. Community Events held in Spanish only. Monolingual English speakers to wear headsets.
- d. Community Engagement & Events
 - i. Deepen trust with monolingual Spanish speaking community but also attending events that are not Latine based.
 - ii. Provide the community with tools and information.
 - iii. Gathering data to make data driven decisions.

5. Activities from the Office of the Denver Clerk and Recorder



- a. Elections: EAC and 2025 election schedule
- b. Community Events: Marriage Marathon and Community Events in 2025
- c. Marketing and social media: Acceso Social Media Accounts and Internal OCR Alignment
 - i. Move away from separate social media accounts; consolidate social media posts into OCR's agency accounts.
 - ii. Acceso will partner with Comms/Marketing on messaging/visuals.

6. Proposed Officers and Terms (per code)

- a. Officers: Board Chair and Board Vice Chair
- b. Terms: 2-year terms (non-renewable). Align with General and Mid-term Election Cycles

MOTION by Maria T. Board Member

Second by Vallerie B. Board Member

Moved to approve. All in favor.

- c. 2025 Election Officers: Voting for new chair and vice chair for our April Meeting.

7. Current Board Terms

- a. 2nd Term Vote: Hilda Gehrke

MOTION by Maria T. Board Member

Second by Vallerie B. Board Member

Moved to approve. All in favor.

8. Discuss Meeting Logistics.

- a. Meeting Frequency: February, April 16th, June 18th, August 20th, October 15th & December 10th Board Meeting.
 - i. Meeting Board Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM
- b. Meeting Location: Re:Vision
- c. Meeting Committees:

9. Other Business.

- a. Daniela to build an updated Roster and dietary restrictions.
- b. All Acceso members to join Signal.

10. Adjournment.

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm

