



**St James MN
Community Visit Report
June 28, 2011**

On Tuesday June 28, 2011, CLAC held a community forum at the St James Community Center Building. The purpose was to capture the voice of the Latino community on education and economic development and share CLAC's functions. We had a small number of community participants; we had a discussion in small groups.

Proposed Meeting Agenda:

- I. Introductions and Networking
- II. Review of CLAC's mission and goals
- III. Forum objectives
- IV. Education : Achievement Gap
- V. Economic Development
- VI. General discussion
- VII. Video – Latino Artists: A Community Vision
- VIII. Adjournment

Due to the small group of participants and scattered arrival we did not follow this agenda

Presenters:

Hector Garcia, *Executive Director, CLAC*
Astrid Ollerenshaw, *Community Relations Manager, CLAC*
Eden Bart, *Program Coordinator, MHC*

Host:

Socorro Munning, St James School District;
Linda Ramirez, Community member;
Sue Harris, Executive Director Community Education

Participants:

1. Leo Rossi, Community member, Retired
2. Molly Westman, Economic Development, City of St James
3. Socorro Munning, ELL Support, St James School District
4. Linda Buller, Community Service Director, St James Community Center
5. Teresa Maria Hernandez, Community member
6. Rosalinda Ramirez "Linda", Community member
7. Silvia Tellez, Community member
8. Francisco Melendez, Community member, Tacos Lupe
9. Representative Bob Gunther, State House of Representatives 24A

Minutes:

The meeting took place at the St James Community Center. Participants did not show up on time for the meeting; they started arriving late and left early; participants came and left throughout the forum.

Astrid, Hector and Eden welcomed participants, and networked with them at the time they walked into the center.

Community Participation:

- Community Member (CM): mentioned that people might still be afraid of attending this kind of event since in the past (not long ago) they had immigration raids.
- CM: The Latino community has not had events with a positive outcome--like a day at the park or any other event just for Latinos.
- Rep Gunther would like CLAC to come back to St James. He requested adding CLAC's participation to a job and community resource fair event. He said, "maybe, Latinos would come if job possibilities are offered at the same time."
- Molly Westman, Economic Development City of St. James, and head of Chamber of Commerce, Lori Nusbaum, would like to help CLAC organize a future forum.

Ideas about Video "Latino Arts a Community Vision":

No video was presented this day.

Next Action Steps:

- Plan a new meeting using as support the regular city meetings and the HR departments of some of the factories and business located in this county.
- Define a strategy to be able to integrate and better help immigrant communities.
- Define a strategy to promote Latinos and Latino culture in St James, and present these videos.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm