

## **Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

Meeting called to order: 9:05 am

**Board Members Present:** J. Bonfante, R. Caldera, M. Decunto, C. Echeverry, I. Gropper, J. Montero, and A. Burst (by conference call)

**Absent Board Members:** C. Mantay, J. Rodriguez,

**Staff Present:** Jason Teal, Division Chief (Regulatory Law Division), Office of the General Counsel

**Guests:** N/A

**I. Welcome:** 9:05 AM Meeting was called to order by I. Gropper. A quorum was confirmed.

**II. Minutes Approval** – The minutes for June 9, 2015 were approved. ( R. Caldera motion; J. Montero second)

### **III. Fiscal and Executive Updates**

No change since last meeting. There is \$889.95 in the Trust Fund (I. Gropper).

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **a. Health, & Public Safety**

M. Decunto reached out to Dr. Sharon Wilburn, Emeritus Professor of UNF (contacts provided by I. Gropper) via email and phone to assist with the work on the White Paper.

M. Decunto, I. Gropper, A. Burst and J. Montero attended a Hispanic Leadership event organized by Leon Carrero to increase participation by all the Hispanic voters. There will be a meeting next week. Current and ex-Chairs of various Hispanic Chambers attended.

J. Montero met with outgoing Sheriff regarding undocumented persons and ICE hold after arrest.

Andrea P. Reyes (Attorney & Counselor at Law) forwarded information to the board regarding an upcoming event sponsored by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for Community Education and Awareness on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 2:00PM – 5:00PM at the Breakers Community Center. The event will inform and educate the public on ways to stay safe. In addition, immigration and criminal attorneys provide free information on immigration and criminal matters as it pertains to participants.

I. Gropper asked that we promote the event to constituents.

J. Montero spoke with Duval County Public School Administrative staff.

There is a private entity that wants to test every low-income child for mental

wellness. Due to the high costs involved in testing, people earning a lower income are less likely able to access such tests. Mental illness is connected with violence and by learning more about one's mental aptitude, one can aid in the prevention of violence. Hispanics rank the highest among those suffering from mental issues.

#### **b. Education**

C. Echeverry participated in the Achieving the Dream Scholarship interviews. There were 30 participants that were interviewed over a two-day period. Due to the high qualifications of the participants, 12 were offered scholarships.

MHAAB will participate in 4th annual Jacksonville Science Festival next February. There is no cost to participate due to the nature of our service as a community partner. Our organization is seen as a liaison to help ensure that our community participates more robustly in STEM education. The STEM education subjects include: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

#### **c. Economic and Faith Based**

No update.

#### **d. FCHCC Liaison**

J. Montero met with Annie Grogan from The H.I.L.L. There will be an event held by the IRS on July 20<sup>th</sup> seeking bilingual candidates.

FCHCC is currently focusing on the ATD Scholarship Awards.

J. Montero will verify that ATD Chair is seated at the head table as previously agreed upon and as part of the commitment for MHAAB members providing their time and expertise on the ATD selection committee.

MHAAB will also be given a table at the event. (Confirmed by C. Echeverry).

#### **e. Community Partnership Meeting –**

A. Burst had no update regarding community partnership. Betzy Santiago is no longer with the city.

I. Gropper will meet with Dr. Johnny Gaffney, who replaced the position previously held by Representative Mia Jones as liaison of Boards and Commissions. There are two vacancies on the MHAAB board that need to be filled as well as the Liaison position.

J. Montero asked if there were nominees for vacancies. I. Gropper responded that, to her knowledge, there was one name submitted, possibly more. Dr. Gerardo Colon, a Mayo doctor and prior ATD speaker, may have submitted paperwork. Interested parties may fill out a form at the [coj.net](http://coj.net) website. The vacant positions were previously held by individuals in public safety and healthcare.

R. Caldera inquired about support for participation in the Mayor's Hispanic American Leadership Awards. Currently, there are limited funds in MHAAB's budget to support such an event. The event must be endorsed by the Mayor for the board to represent the mayor. If the event is held in October, there is a very short window of time to organize it.

A. Burst suggested that if the event is sponsored by the Mayor and supported by the Mayor and MHAAB, the date of the event can be changed to a later date in order to accommodate planning. Previously, the event cost between \$2,000 - \$2,500 due to costs of food, publicity, security, building operations, awards, press, etc.

I. Gropper recommended that the Chief of Staff be contacted to discuss support for the event from the Mayor's Office.

R. Caldara moved to motion the participation of the Mayor's Hispanic American Leadership Awards if the Mayor's Office supports the event both economically and through attendance. J. Montero seconded the motion (motion passed unanimously).

## **V. New Business**

J. Teal led the discussion regarding the bylaws update needed to align the MHAAB bylaws with the latest executive order which properly reflects the charges given by the Mayor and to provide clarity. Each item was explained and questions were answered.

Motion to approve bylaw updates (R. Caldera) and was seconded (J. Montero).

All were in favor of updates (motion passed unanimously).

## **VI. Old Business**

J. Montero mentioned that our MHAAB Facebook page has increased popularity by 80%.

I. Gropper asked for all board members to like the MHAAB page.

Last meeting, I. Gropper discussed the purchase of a tablecloth for use when MHAAB is participating in Fairs, etc. C. Echeverry researched the cost and received a quote of \$251.45 for the tablecloth. No decision was made.

## **VII. Guest Speakers**

None.

## **VIII. Public Concerns - None**

## **IX. Reminders:**

- a. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 11, 9-10:30 a.m.  
Location City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Mayor's Conference Room
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter service hours
  - i. Due July 1

**Meeting Adjourned at: 10:20 am**

Minutes Submitted by: Cristina Echeverry 7/15/15

Corrected by Ida Gropper 8/11/2015

Approved at 8/11/2015 Board Meeting