

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Meeting called to order: 9:10 a.m. by Chair Caldera

Board Members Present: A. Burst, C. Mantay, J. Montero, M. Decunto (arrived at 9:19AM), R. Caldera, C. Echeverry

Absent Board Members (Excused): I. Gropper

Staff Present: N/A

Guests: Leon Carrero – Former MHAAB Chair, Thomas Jimenez and Leslie Artica

- I. Welcome:** 9:10 AM Meeting was called to order by Chair R. Caldera. A quorum was confirmed.
- II.** Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by J. Montero
- III. Minutes Approval** – The minutes for September 8, 2015 were approved with correction, item B – nominations and Election chair. (A. Burst motion; J. Montero second)

The minutes for October 6, 2015 were approved with correction, take out "on" and adjust health and public safety numbers to read 35,000 instead of 22,714. (A. Burst motion; J. Montero second)

III. Fiscal and Executive Updates

No change since last meeting. There is \$889.95 in the Trust Fund assuming that there was no interest accumulated in the account. Kerri Stewart, the Chief of Staff will serve as a liaison for our board until the vacancy is filled. (R. Caldera).

There must be a notice of a public meeting 1 week before, which is sent to the public. This needs confirmation from the mayor's office. J. Montero will ask Ana (previous MHAAB Liaison) for the MHAAB email access and will provide Ana's contact information to Secretary.

Three out of 5 MHAAB positions are filled. Thomas Jimenez Junior is expected to be appointed but there has been no official communication from the Mayor's Office as of yet.

All MHAAB members are invited to the Puerto Rican Carnival on Friday, November 13th. The event will start at 7:00 pm at the Casa Boricua in The Landing Downtown. The St. Augustine Mayor and Mayor of Puerto Rico may attend.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Health and Public Safety

M. Decunto attended meeting with Casa Para Todo El Mundo. This event was hosted by the Council of Mexico regarding treatment of Mexican immigrants in Jacksonville. The City of Jacksonville's Sherriff's Department is open to hear what is going on and sending members to attend the traveling council event at Westside Church November 21st.

M. Decunto reported that the governor of Chapas contacted the media (Hola and Eco Latino). We are having trouble with reaching the mayor. M. Decunto met with Juan Savines at the council debriefing.

b. Education

C. Echeverry was the guest speaker for the Hispanic Heritage Month Event at Naval Station Mayport on October 14th. There were over 100 people in attendance.

c. Economic and Faith Based

C. Mantay is in the beginning phases of organizing an event at Unity Plaza to promote Hispanic Heritage Day in 2016. The purpose of the event is to increase awareness regarding the diversity of culture among Hispanic cultures. She is working with the Executive Director of Unity Plaza Resources, Jen Jones, who will be in charge of marketing the event. This will be a free event to attendees.

J. Montero attended a prayer event on October 19th at 4:00AM at Avancia Misionero off of Beach Blvd. There were over 2,000 people in attendance. He also attended Mysterio Nueva Avance on November 4th and Celebration's Church's 5:30PM service on November 8th. J. Montero asked for Catholic Ministry Connection leads from board members.

MHAAB board is invited to attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church Meeting on December 7th. Meeting will consist of business men of the diocese of St. Augustine but men and women are welcome.

A. Burst had nothing to report.

d. FCHCC Liaison

J. Montero reported that the chamber will have a retreat this Saturday, November 14th. He thanked A. Burst for sponsoring MHAAB to have a table at the ATD event. A. Burst mentioned that Maribel from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce requested to meet with the Mayor and will attend the following meeting to present plans for 2016.

e. Facebook update –

J. Montero mentioned he needs the addresses by the administrator assigned to the Facebook account. Someone had contacted MHAAB through the Facebook website to ask for information regarding questions pertaining to employment, housing, services and schools. It was discussed to call 630-city to see if there was someone that could answer those questions that also speaks Spanish. There should be someone affiliated with the City that can answer questions pertaining to transportation, education, housing and health for those interested in relocating to Jacksonville.

V. New Business

A. Vision and Mission – R. Caldera mentioned that MHAAB needs a strategic plan in place. He requested a special meeting to draft the mission and vision. This plan should cover the next 3 – 5 years to adapt to the changes faced. Since MHAAB's inception, there are now other Hispanic organizations that oversee similar initiatives MHAAB does and we need to streamline efforts in order to avoid a duplication of efforts. We should not be in competition with one another. We are to serve as a liaison between the Hispanic community and the Mayor's Office. R. Caldera requested a special meeting take

place to draft a strategy for the year 2016. The meeting will take place December 1st at City Hall from 9:00AM – 10:30AM. This meeting is in addition to the regularly scheduled board meeting on December 8th.

VI. Public Comments

Thomas Jimenez- Gave some background regarding the history of MHAAB board and was the founder. MHAAB also helped create the Asian Advisory board in 1999. An attorney created the bylaws and MHAAB served as the umbrella organization. They meet on Tuesdays at 6:00PM at the City Hall Annex. When serving on MHAAB, the board reached out to churches and schools to create the annual report. Thomas had a meeting regarding the presence in the City of Jacksonville. City council support is needed. The action in order is to gain the respect of the Mayor and offer support to MHAAB.

Leon Carrero- Asked the board what relevance is. The voter numbers represent less than 1% of the Hispanic population in Jacksonville. 180,000 hispanics are living in Jacksonville. 40,000 should be able to register. He passed out an important message to the community with a plan of action. Also mentioned that when the naturalization process occurs in Jacksonville, we should meet and greet new citizens and encourage them to register to vote.

Leslie Artica- Represents a non-profit organization in Jacksonville that represents people from Honduras living in Jacksonville and wanted to learn more about what MHAAB has to offer. In the last four months it has had three meetings. It has advertised in Hola Noticias. The last meeting is on September 4th. It's Facebook page is: Asociacion Hodurena.

We need a quest for relevance. We're not getting attention of the Mayor. We need to build the Hispanic community center so that there is a place for events and to share education.

A.Burst- There will be an event today at Hiabachi Grille at Tinceltown focusing on immigration, religion and foreign policy. Debry Ulloa is the speaker at 12PM today. Former Jaycees President will also be in attendance.

IV. Reminders:

- a. Next Meeting – December 1st
Location City Hall, Floor (TBD)
- b. 3rd quarter service hours
 - i. Due December 1st

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:30 am

Minutes Submitted by:
Cristina Echeverry 11/23/2015