

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

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Meeting called to order: 9:05 am

Board Members Present: A. Burst, R. Caldera, M. Decunto, C. Echeverry, I. Gropper, J. Montero, , , C. Mantay

Absent Board Members (Excused): N/A

Staff Present: N/A

Guests: Dr. Paredes and Ms. Helga Langthon

- I. **Welcome:** 9:05 AM Meeting was called to order by Rafael Caldera. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Jesus Montero.

- II. **Minutes Approval** – The minutes for September 8th, 2015 were tabled for next meeting.
(A. Burst motion; C. Mantay second)

The minutes from September were table for November's meeting since it was not the latest revision.

III. Fiscal and Executive Updates

- a. No change since last meeting. There is \$889.95 in the Trust Fund assuming that there was no interest accumulated in the account. Once a liaison is assigned to MHAAB, we'll receive more detailed information.
- b. Chair, Rafael Caldera presents the Board with a new gavel. Gift from our Chair to stay with the MHAAB for good
- c. Information to be updated regarding Virgen de la Caridad event. This is a Cuban American Event and Alicia confirmed the correct date this event took place in section 6.
- d. Jesus' will make corrections regarding the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on page 2 section D.
- e. Nominations to the Board take place for Vice Chair and Secretary.

Ms. Ida Gropper confirmed the duties of both titles:

Vice Chair: This position has the responsibility of taking over the Chair's position when the Chair is not available or unable to perform his/her duties. Also this individual must assist the Chair in all matters related to the Board & represent the Board when necessary and the Chair cannot attend.

Secretary: This position has the responsibility to take the minutes of each Board meeting and send a copy to all other board members for review. Also he/she has to send the minutes to the person in charge with the IT for the City in order to make them available in the website for public notification. The secretary is responsible to prepare any flyers, official records for meeting or events and also to keep record of all documents well organized in a binder.

Ms. Alicia Burst was nominated and selected by unanimous vote to be the new Vice Chair position. Congratulations Alicia!

Ms. Cristina Echeverry was nominated and selected by unanimous vote to the new Secretary position, it was a Final Vote and Decision.

Chair recognized Ms. Ida Gropper our past Chair with a commemorative plaque to show our appreciation for her hard work and great service and leadership to the Board during her duties as Chair. Ms. Gropper gave a short speech to thank the board for the recognition and support given to her.

There has not been a new liaison assigned from the Mayor's office to communicate or attend the MHAAB meetings.

IV. Committee Reports

Education

Mario Decunto had a very successful meeting with the Times Union regarding Mental Health study from 2012. Discussion also was brought up regarding Ann Cutler negative and racist article against Hispanics. Attending also was Mike Clark and Frank Denton.

Mr. Denton addressed with Mario his concerns regarding Mario's letter subject matter and offered to give Hispanics a new section in the Times Union to recognize a Hispanic Leader in our community in order to highlight Hispanic contributions and leadership in Jacksonville. He also was

asked to be on the Editorial Times Union board as a citizen member. Congratulations Mario.

The Times Union will be sending a senior writer to attend the ATD and promote this great event.

Mario's most concern was the very high percentage of Hispanic teens that try to commit suicide compared to other minorities.

Ida disclosed an important project Leon Carrera is promoting with Hispanic leaders in our community who are working to promote our Hispanic leaders to participate and gain more political presence with city positions.

Jesus Montero:

Discussed the idea for the flyer's promotion to include the Mayor's logo. Permission as to be granted for this request.

Cristina Echeverry:

I attended two meeting with Citi Family Center's leadership team regarding reinstating the curriculum pertaining to Spanish for the children enrolled infant – kindergarten for CitiGroup employees based in Jacksonville. The children are read to in Spanish at least once/week and have signage labeling items in the classroom in Spanish such as table, window, door, bathroom. Due to our meeting, we are encouraging parents to read Spanish books to the children in their classroom, donate children books in Spanish to its library and are given a table at both of its curriculum nights this week promoting the organizations in Jacksonville that cater to the Hispanic community (listing all those affiliated with the City of Jacksonville).

I've also spoken at two Navy Commands in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month the past two weeks with one more speaking engagement at Mayport tomorrow. The original invitation was given to one of our MHAAB members who had to decline the opportunity. The original speaking engagement was given to me based on my affiliation with MHAAB and the other two were because of my affiliation with my employer since we operate on base at NAS. At all three events I was able to mention serving on the MHAAB board, talking about the importance of higher education, share personal

experiences as well as the history behind Hispanic Heritage Month and about the Hispanic population in Jacksonville.

Alicia Burst:

Alicia attended Pedro Pan event were approximately 40 people attended on Sept. 23th in the Regional Utilities Dept. in Gainesville, Florida.

ATD Event planned for Friday Oct. 16th, 2015 at 11:30 am. This event is approved and the board donated (paid for a table) to contribute to the scholarship.

Ida suggested the following individuals to be invited to our table for this event: Keri Stewart, Jordan Elsbury, Jason Teal and Dr. Johnny Gaffney.

Health and Public Safety

The negative article regarding Hispanics in the Times Union was corrected by Mr. Mario Decunto. changes will be updated.

Out of 20,000 registered Hispanic voters, only 3,500 voted in the last election. Another goal this group is seeking is to encourage Hispanics in our community to vote. The name is NE Florida Hispanic Alianza. Some of the members are Wilfredo Gonzalez, Giselle Carson, Betzy Santiago, Annie Grogan, Jesus Montero, Helga Langthon and others not mentioned here. The slogan is "Tu Voz es tu Voto"

Some Media partners Ida mentioned are the View point and Daily Record publications that are also looking to promote articles on the good work Hispanics are doing in our city.

Economic and Faith Based

Facebook update: The FB liaison with the community has become more active and continues to increase presence. People are starting to post more questions and this allows us to be more relevant in our role of connecting them with the City and services they may not know about that may be helpful.

Jesus will take the lead in managing the FB page. in order to help direct people to the best possible source for help as they express their questions and needs.

Suggestions: Tina Echeverry suggested Ida Gropper to join the Education Committee as Ida offered to help wherever she is needed.

Old Business:

Alicia met La Guia team on Sept 29th to discuss the next issue. They agreed to make this publication for profit and obtain some revenues from advertisers. The revenues would be divided and some would be given to the MHAAB. For more information contact Alicia. For example include in La guia voting sites, Language learning facilities, and other resources.

Following are the questions to follow up with La Guia / Heritage Publishing:

- What will MHAAB's role be in the development and dissemination of La Guia? What is the role of Heritage Publishing? (present and future roles)
- How will revenue be divided (percentage for each partner)?
- How will Heritage determine the number of copies to be printed and the locations to disseminate La Guia? Will MHAAB have an opportunity to provide input?
- Will MHAAB receive a .pdf of La Guia and will we be able to place the .pdf on the MHAAB website? Will there be an opportunity for MHAAB to have a page promoting the board, our mission and contact information?
- What type of agreement (MOU, etc.) is needed to make the partnership binding and legal?

Community Partnership Meeting –

Community Partnership. Jesus, Alicia and Carmen will continue to serve on this committee. The goal is to organize the first event by January 2016 and invite an expert in health to present and provide resources to those attending. Suggestion was given to invite case managers in order to develop relationship and connect with them and the Hispanic community. Ida's suggestion to involve other resources, for example, The YMCA, all to contribute to the physical, mental and overall health.

Invite some strategic guest to promote this event.

V. New Business

Chair: Chair suggested to keep this events simple and efficient. Good quality presentations. Rafael will be looking for the vision and mission for this events.

VI. Old Business

Table Clothes update. It was agreed to move forward and order the Banner with logos of the City and MHAAB.

Must get approval from city.

VII. Guest Speakers

Dr. Paredes: Dr. Paredes a past board member and advocate to serve the Hispanic community, those most in need of medical assistance. He introduced himself and invited the board members to the Hispanic Medical Association social on Thursday Nov. 12th, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Havana Jax Café.

Ms. Helga Langthon: Ms. Langthon was nominated by Carmen Mantay as a new board member. She submitted her application and is awaiting a response. She came to the meeting to introduce herself personally and to share her goal to serve with the MHAAB.

VIII. Public Concerns - None

IX. Reminders:

- a. Next Meeting – November 10, 9-10:30 a.m. Location City Hall, Room TBD

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:30 am

Minutes Submitted by: Carmen Mantay 11/8/2015