

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2015

Meeting called to order: 9:05 a.m.

Board Members: Present: Jose Bonfante, Alicia Burst, Rafael Caldera, Mario Decunto, Cristina Echeverry, Ida Gropper, Carmen Mantay, Jesus Montero, Victor Pacheco, Judith Rodriguez, Patricia Solo-Josephson

Staff Present: Ana Andreu, Betzy Santiago

Guests: Maribel Hernandez, President/CEO FCHCC

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Ida Gropper, Chair. A quorum was confirmed.

Minutes Approval – The December minutes were approved with corrections.

Fiscal and Executive Updates - \$889.95 in the trust fund.

Committee Reports

- **Health, & Public Safety** Patty discussed the influx of Hispanics to our area as a result of the U.S. State Department official launch of an in-country refugee/parole program in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The program provides some children a safe, legal, and orderly alternative to embarking on the dangerous journey, alone, to the U.S. Mario discussed inviting Maria Padilla to the March meeting and Betzy discussed importance of inviting the different community members from the PR Chamber and North Florida Hispanic Chamber. Victor provided a public safety report.
- **Education** Cristina and Judy have a meeting with Rocelia Gonzalez at UNF to discuss bringing an ASPIRA Chapter to Jacksonville. ASPIRA a national Hispanic organization dedicated exclusively to developing the educational and leadership capacity of Hispanic youth.
- **Economic and Faith Based** Carmen discussed an idea to collaborate with Unity Park to create a fundraising event that would benefit ATD.
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
 - Fundraising: Ana estimated a budget of \$5,500 for the board to cover \$400 for an ATD table and approximately \$5,100 for the MHL awards, \$1,100 for plaques and food and \$4,000 for radio and other ads. Discussion ensued as to whether the board serves as an advisory or activist board. If the board is an activist board, it would fundraise, but if the board is an advisory board it would not fundraise. A motion was made by Jesus that the board would fundraise; seconded by Victor. The vote was 5 to fundraise and 6 to abstain from fundraising; motion did not pass.
 - Judy discussed creating "white papers" by researching topics that affect the Hispanic Community and submitting recommendations to the Mayor.

Suggestions for white papers included access to health providers and inclusion of mental health professionals in after school programs.

- **Guest Presentation**

- Maribel Hernandez, President/CEO FCHCC discussed membership, diversifying, obtaining a sustainable funding source, and developing a strategic plan. The members on the MHAAB that will serve as ATD scholarship application evaluators are Cristina Echeverry and Alicia Burst.

- **Announcements**

- None

- **Reminders**

- Next Meeting - Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting 3/10/15 at 9:00 a.m.
- Service Hours log – Due April 1 to Ana Andreu

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:25 am

Minutes Prepared by: Ida Gropper
Approved March 10, 2015