

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting

Draft of Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Board Members Present: A. Burst, R., Caldera, C. Echeverry, E. Pantoja, J. Silva, J, Cuetos, T. Jimenez, M. Decunto

Absent Board Members: J. Montero

Staff Present: J. Lacayo

Guests: Marivi Wright (The Players Center for Child Health at Wolfsons), Natalia Sanches & Eduardo Soriano (Timuguana/National Park Services), Veronica Brown (Veronica Brown, CPA)

Welcome: 9:00AM Meeting was called to order by Rafael Caldera. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by C. Echeverry. Introductions of board members were conducted. Chairman R. Caldera stated that if any ex-parte communications had occurred since the prior Board meeting disclosure was required at that time and opened the floor for disclosure. No Board member disclosed having ex-parte communications.

Minutes Approval – The minutes for June 14th motion A. Burst, second J. Cuetos. Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal and Executive Updates

There is \$1,012 in the account. Welcomed new board members J. Silva and J. Cueto (R. Caldera). T. Jimenez asked about the process of recruiting board members. T. Jimenez stated that it was unclear to him what the process was because in the past R. Caldera had expressed a desire that the board members including himself (R. Caldera) abstain from being part of the appointment process. T. Jimenez further went on to state that when he contacted J. Lacayo outside a regular board meeting regarding the process for a member of the community to apply to the board, and that J. Lacayo indicated that any and all potential applicants needed to be directed to R. Caldera. R. Caldera stated that applications should be sent to Jessica Laird for review and copy to board members. Two potential board members are in attendance as guests during the current board meeting (R. Caldera). The Facebook page that is being promoted is Ciudad de Jacksonville (M. Decunto). R. Caldera stated that he and A. Burst had met with Jessica Laird to secure certain board appointments and to help the appointment process moving forward.

Committee Reports

Health and Public Safety

M. Decunto was involved with connecting people with services such as the Mexican Consociate from Orlando that came to assist Mexican citizens in NE Florida. The organization introduced people to Green Cove Springs where there is a high Mexican population to help them obtain identification cards. There was an event July 15th with churches participating with Mayo Clinic to help individuals start health ministries (M. Decunto).

Mayo Clinic Doctors will help with education. Currently 8 churches are involved, almost 9. The Mayo Clinic is also hosting a community event called Let's Talk Health taking about childhood bullying and individualized medicine. The event is expected to be well-attended on July 23rd (E. Pantoja).

Education

C. Echeverry taught 80 preschoolers (3 and 4 year olds) about Dominican Culture and taught them to dance merengue at the Citi Family Center (daycare for children of CitiGroup employees). C. Echeverry will be attending open houses pertaining to dual education programs for early childhood prior to the beginning of the fall and will be reaching out to former MHAAB member Yvonne Shaffer for assistance. The committee will also be distributing La Guia at NAS and Webster University open houses (C. Echeverry). New board member, J. Silva with FSCJ will be joining education committee (J. Silvia).

Economic and Faith Based

T. Jimenez met with Vince Salcedo with Odyssey Funding LLC. Mr. Salcedo's company focusses on financing homes for Hispanics. He has a ~~plan~~ program that involves evaluating income and credit history of individuals who are unable to obtain mortgage financing due to poor credit. This program sets out a plan for credit repair so they can qualify for a loan to purchase a home. The interest rates are slightly higher to those who are higher risk but is still a beneficial service for those seeking home ownership. J. Cuetos will be joining the economic committee. T. Jimenez asked for Economic and Faith Based to be separated in two separate committees. Board members agreed that the structure of various committee titles should be reviewed. R. Caldera asked to submit suggestions of subcommittee structure to discuss at next meeting.

R. Caldera clarified that each board member is assigned to subcommittees but does not require that the members of their respective committees to report on matters within that committee. The matter was raised by T. Jimenez that he would like the Faith Based Committee to stand alone rather than together with the Economic Committee as these items are not related. T. Jimenez went on to state that there is a concern that board members would be part of a committee and have nothing to report. T. Jimenez particularly stated that he does not wish to be responsible for the Faith Based portion of the Economic and Faith Based Committee. M. Decunto expressed similar concern with regard to the Health and Public Safety Committee, as his area of involvement in the community is more related to health and not necessarily public safety. M. Decunto suggested the Health and Public Safety committee be separated into two separate committees. R. Caldera indicated that he would allow members to choose how the subcommittees would be structured. T. Jimenez indicated that pursuant to the by-laws the Chairman is charged with creation and appointment of committees. R. Caldera acknowledged T. Jimenez's

comment regarding committees to be correct and opened discussion on the matter. R. Caldera did not make a clear indication as to what action would be taken with regard to the formation/modification of the committees. R. Caldera stated at one point that the committees should be separated to individual committees, but followed by stating that they should remain as they are and that the members of the members of committees with more than one area would not be required to report on all matters relating to that committee. R. Caldera went on to state that members are encouraged to report on any area of strength or involvement. A need to staff the faith based subcommittee was discussed.

Hispanic Leadership Awards

Working on drafting a letter to the Mayor's office for the event in December (R. Caldera). FCHCC recently hosted a similar event including the Mayor, which is why the HLA will be moved. The FCHCC event was well attended (approximately 1,000 attendees. There was a lot of media coverage including Univision and was well-organized (J. Cuetos). A discussion as conducted regarding history of the HLA (R. Caldera). Marivi Wright and Jen Silva volunteered to join the subcommittee for the HLA. E. Pantoja volunteered to recruit support (committee members) for the event.

Achieving the Dream

The ATD interviews will be hosted at Webster University this Friday from 2:00PM – 6:30PM (C. Echeverry). The event will be a Gala this year. It was discussed that MHAAB should receive recognition for supporting the ATD event (T. Jimenez). A. Burst and C. Echeverry will introduce themselves to each candidate as representing MHAAB and will ask Committee Chair to Offer recognition to MHAAB supporting the ATD event (A. Burst & C. Echeverry).

Old Business

It was mentioned that the community partnership should take place (at least 1 meeting before the end of the year (R. Caldera). A. Burst offered to lead the committee as well as J. Cuetos and R. Caldera (will be discussed at the next meeting). Quorum is extremely important for MHAAB. Currently, we have one board member that has missed 4 consecutive board meetings and is planning on missing the next two, totaling 6 consecutive meetings (R. Caldera). A. Burst mentioned that excessive absences is unacceptable due to absence and not active with the board. A. Burst motion and J. Cuetos seconded motion to remove J. Montero from MHAAB. M. Decunto recommended we follow the bylaws and that there is no need to vote the board member out. The bylaws were reviewed and it was determined that removal would have to be based on a 2/3 vote. A discussion took place regarding absences (R. Caldera). T. Jimenez mentioned that J. Montero's absences were excused absences according to the minutes adopted by the board and has been very busy with work. There has been a personality clash between J. Montero and R. Caldera and it was noted that J. Montero is still interested in being active on the board. T. Jimenez expressed his concerns removing J. Montero and stated that he would vote "no" on removal. A. Burst and T. Jimenez discussed opposing views regarding the removal of J. Montero. J. Cuetos gave his opinion pertaining to non-activity of board members. He supports the removal of board members that are not actively involved with MHAAB. Furthermore, MHAAB should move beyond personal needs.

There was concern expressed regarding the moral of board members for those who actively participate on the board and who committed to serve (no favoritism should be given). It was discussed that the bylaws be followed (C. Echeverry). A. Burst motion of removal of J. Montero, J. Cuetos second. 5 vote yes (A. Burst, C. Echeverry, J. Silva, J. Cuetos, R. Caldera), 2 vote no (T. Jimenez, M. Decunto), 1 abstain (E. Pantoja) If abstaining voted is counted, the motion will not pass (T. Jimenez). If E. Pantoja voted no, the motion would not have passed (R. Caldera). Motion passes (R. Caldera). T. Jimenez objected to R. Caldera voting for removal of J. Montero on the basis of the Chairman (R. Caldera) only being able to vote only in the event of a tie. T. Jimenez further stated that because there was no tie R. Caldera should not be permitted to vote and his vote should not be counted. R. Caldera stated that he in fact could vote. Chairman R. Caldera cast a vote and his vote was counted. T. Jimenez further stated that he wished to reserve the right to challenge the passage of the motion based on (1) the Chairman's vote having been cast and counted and (2) the way in which the total number of votes required to reach a 2/3 majority was required to be calculated, i.e. whether the yeas needed to obtain a 2/3 majority vote is based on the total present Board members (which would include the abstaining board member) or on the total number of members casting a vote on the motion.

New Business

Mayors summer jobs program was discussed which provide internships/mentorships for City of Jacksonville (J. Lacayo). M. Decunto discussed working on a mentorship program to help youth that need various forms of mentoring. He solicited the help of MHAAB members to serve as mentors (M. Decunto).

Public Comments

Marivi Wright (The Players Center for Child Health at Wolfsons). On July 29th there will be a wellness and health fair to reach out to families and educate them on health and wellness.

Veronica Garcia Brown (CPA from Cuba and lived in Miami). Introduced herself and offered to serve on MHAAB. J. Cuetos recommended V. Brown's involvement.

Natalia and Eduardo (National Park Service). They would like to share more information about *Dare to Explore/Atrévete a Explorar* with MHAAB. The event will take place on Saturday, September 10th, from 10:00am-3:00pm, in Fort George Island. NPS will be hosting different activities at both event sites (Kingsley Plantation and Ribault Club) simultaneously, as well as offering to shuttle visitors between both locations. The activities offered will include kayaking, fishing, guided hike, virtual caching and Junior Ranger program. They're in the process of updating the webpage and flyer, but please feel free to visit <http://go.nps.gov/Explorar> for more information. Once the flyer and other information are updated, MHAAB will receive it.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Caldera at:

Meeting Minutes Draft Submitted by: C. Echeverry 8/8/2016 Next meeting will be on August 9th at City Hall, 4th Floor Conference Room.