

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Board Members Present: A. Burst (via phone conference), C. Echeverry, E. Pantoja, T. Jimenez, J. Cuetos, M. Wright

Absent Board Members (excused): M. Decunto, J. Silva

Staff Present: R. Lacayo and 2) Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Liaison to Mayor and to 60 boards (prior councilmen)

Guests: Angel Santiago

Welcome: 9:00 AM Meeting was called to order by C. Echeverry. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by E. Pantoja.

Minutes Approval – Approval of the June 2017 minutes (tabled until received/next meeting).

Fiscal and Executive Updates

A. Burst reported on June 13th she met with Jocelyn Turner, Jose Cuetos and other members of the Hispanic Health Council. Jocelyn is working with her department at the Duval County Health Department to continue working on the printing of the next La Guia for 2017 - 2018. She feels there might be some funding available this time from the Department of Health.

We discussed in detail how imperative it is that our information is accurate and as up to date as possible for La Guia. We are actively searching for additional sponsorships, details to be provided. Next meeting date has not yet been established but A. Burst is urging for printing to occur no later than October of 2017. A concentrated effort is to be made to also have an on-line version of La Guia.

Ana Johnson from Catholic Charities Refugee Program picked up 75 La Guias. Catholic Charities found them extremely useful and are looking forward to our next publication. A. Burst has invited Catholic Charities to be present at our August MHAAB meeting information can be presented on refugee assistance. Hopefully, an immigration attorney can also attend.

A. Burst has now met twice with the Hispanic Leadership Group who is working on locating a Hispanic candidate for public office. Our very own Mario Decunto has expressed interest in doing so, and seems to meet the necessary criteria so far.

She invited the mayor on October 10th for the HLA but cannot commit this far. If anything, a representative can attend.

Committee Reports

Health and Public Safety

M. Wright reported this month she had the opportunity to do an interview in Spanish with 18 Jax TV channel. The topic of the interview was water safety and drowning prevention. The average amount of viewers for the show where the interview aired is of 50,000. The rest of her efforts were focused on Clay County and St. John's County (M. Wright).

E. Pantoja reported on June 10th she coordinated free Cardiac screenings with UF at a Jacksonville Hispanic Church of God. She is working on getting more churches to participate in these very valuable screenings. On June 29th, she attended the Hispanic Health Fair kick off meeting. She represented both MHAAB and Mayo Clinic. There were about 25 people in attendance. Included in attendance were the Voter's registration and a representative for the ESOL program.

With respects to the literature or flyers that MHAAB will be offering on September 16th from 10AM – 3PM, we may have to reassess what we will be offering so as to not duplicate efforts. Since Mayo is sponsoring a table, E. Pantoja is happy to incorporate any materials that we have agreed to include as a group.

Education

C. Echeverry reported Duval County Public Schools achieved a "B" for its district grade for the third consecutive year! Additionally, 89 percent of the district's schools received either an "A, B, or C." DCPS Food Services and their partner, Chartwells K-12, are offering a program to ensure no student goes hungry while on summer break for children 18 years old and younger. More than 80 Summer BreakSpot sites will be open throughout the city, providing free meals to children 18 and younger. There are no income restrictions and registration is not required. To find Summer BreakSpot locations, including the mobile feeding sites, please visit SummerFoodFlorida.org, or text "Food FL" to 877-877. Menus, site locations, and hours for each site in Duval may also be found by visiting www.duvalschools.nutrislice.com or by downloading the free Nutrislice mobile app on any smartphone.

For more information about the Summer BreakSpot program in Duval, please contact Krishelle Hancock, Sr. Director of Marketing & Strategy, at Krishelle.Hancock@compass-usa.com or by calling (904) 732-5117 (Duval Digest, July 6th Ed).

C. Echeverry recommends that we gather general information pertaining to Summer Camp programs to be published in La Guilla. Free program information would be of particular interest. The information is listed with the Children's Commission. J. Gafney will arrange a meeting with Children's Commission for MHAAB.

Hispanic Leadership Awards

The Call for Nominees is posted on the City of Jacksonville Website for HLA. The deadline to submit applications is August 15th. The categories listed are: Non-Profit; Faith-Based; Education; Business; Health Care; Arts & Culture; Military Service; Lifetime Achievement (there is typo on the website “Busines that needs to be corrected.”).

Criteria to apply for HLA is on the website and there is opportunity for sponsorship (A. Burst).

\$200 for full page add, \$100 for half a page add and \$50 for a quarter page. Webster will sponsor \$200 full page ad.

Economic & Faith Based

J. Thomas was involved with Hispanic Chamber event on June 29th as a sponsor for the monthly meeting and gathering.

J. Cuetos was in a meeting with the Community Relations person with the Jaguars. The Jaguars approached the NFL to teach kids about the sport so the Hispanic community could be aware of the sport. Summer Camp Character Camp geared towards Hispanics (July 24th 10AM – 1PM for kids 7 – 14. Also attended Arlington Citizen and Planning Commission Meeting. Impressed with what the City is doing to create a good image. What attracts people to Jacksonville is the river and ocean. An effort will be made regarding our natural resources to attract others to our area. J. Cuetos attended a Citizen and Planning advisory committee on 07/10/17 in representation of Councilman of Aaron Bowman and had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Lori Boyer, Council Lady for District 5, where she share how is the city working to create a image that would draw the attention to tourists to the city the city. The plan has develop into 5 experiences: 1. downtown experience, 2. nature/preserve experience, 3. artificial reefs, 4. shrimping business experience, 5 Marine life experiences.

Dr. Gaffney’s Report

The tourism board focuses on waters and tributaries and is trying to include the carnival. We want to make Jacksonville a destination. The bike path in Fernandina Beach goes 25 miles from Fernandina Beach to Jacksonville. Yvette Brown with Children’s Commission (630-8260) is the person to contact regarding Summer Programs for kids (the new information is compiled every February). A voter’s registration drive is required by the Supervisor of Election. It will set up a voter’s registration drive whenever MHAAB asks for one. MHAAB members are welcome to contact Dr. Gaffney’s cell at: 309-2257 to answer any questions.

Dr. Gaffney offered to help evaluate the nominees of MHAAB board member candidates. On another note, Dr. Gaffney asked if MHAAB has a relationship with the Sheriff. Tomas Jimenez does have as strong relationship with Sheriff Mike Williams and encouraged MHAAB to have a meeting with the Sheriff to earn a seat at the table. Dr. Gaffney will set up a meeting with MHAAB and the Sheriff.

It was recommended to also meet with the School Board Chair. Some examples of interest include asking about the ratio of Hispanic Principals and what we are doing to service Hispanic children in schools. Other questions to ask is how many Hispanic officers.

Old Business

MHAAB website has outdated information including current administration and Es Mi Vida meetings. Two sections of city website, which make it difficult to navigate. There may be more than one area at the website that offers MHAAB information.

New Business

\$1.5M will be given to drowning prevention. The Duval County Health Department is leading the effort for La Guilla. Once

Public Comments

Angel Santiago works for the intelligence office with the Sheriff's Department and is the ex-husband of Betzy Santiago. He's interested in serving on the MHAAB board. He has years of experience serving on the board. His focus is on counter terrorism. He's interested in wanting to know about the issues in the community. Many crimes go unreported because they're afraid of deportation. If you're a victim, you're protected from deportation.

Meeting Adjourned by Vice-Chairman Echeverry at 9:47AM:

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: C. Echeverry 7/11/2017. The next meeting will be on August 8, 2017 at City Hall, 4th Floor Conference Room.