

## **Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 09, 2013 at 9:00am.

**Present:** Patricia Solo – Josephson, Alicia Burst, Jesus Montero, Javier Garcia, Ida Grooper, Rafael Caldera, Mario Decunto, Carmen Matay, Yvonne Shaffer.

**Staff Present:** Betzy Santiago and Lissete Recio

**Guests:** Maira Martelo JPEF, Ivan Rodriguez JTA, Annie Grogan The Hill

**Welcome:** Patty Called the meeting to order

**Minutes Approval** – No minutes were provided due to Ana's absence. Minutes will be presented during the next meeting.

Patty brought to discussion an event to recognize Hispanic leaders in our community. The event to be considered is a recognition opportunity of Hispanic leaders who are making an impact our community. The nominees could be from different sectors such as Health, Education and Faith-Based. Javier advised that the FCHCC has a similar event and stated that we should not duplicate efforts. Betzy offered details to help with such an event such as nomination forms and candidate application packets. Ida proposed to form a committee to research whether others organizations are doing the same so as to not duplicate efforts. There was a unanimous vote in favor of creating a committee. Rafael, Alicia and Jesus volunteered to be part of the committee that will get this information for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Health, Education, Public Safety**

Yvonne Shaffer worked with the Honorable Ashley Smith Juarez to change the school application form to state "Proof of Address" instead than "Proof of Residence" this will make immigrants parents feel more comfortable because "Proof of Residence" means Green Card. And inquiry form has been submitted.

Mario Decunto was at the Inroads event and proposed that the money we have in our account could be used to participate of the different events that need our attention.

#### **Faith Based, Cultural, Special Events**

Javier Caldera, Mario Decunto and Alicia Burst participated of this year the "Stop the Violence" recognition banquet they presented scholarships to two Hispanic students and also honored the local president of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Maria Machin for her contributions in helping Jacksonville build a stronger and healthier community.

This year's speaker was Duval County Court Judge Gary Flower. Others being honored this year were: Nikolai P. Vitti- Duval County School Board Superintendent and Lt. Mathew Nemeth, - Director of Police

Athletic League. Also, as part of the entertainment, there was a dance group from the Dominican Republic that performed some typical dances from the island.

### **Government Relations, Public Relations Business**

Carmen shared that she has been working with international clients to bring more Hispanic business to Jacksonville.

### **Guests**

Maira Martelo Presented a synopsis of her dissertation in Early Literacy Practices and Beliefs about Education among Hispanic Families in Jacksonville, Florida. The presentation is attached to this email.

Annie Grogan advised that the Hills mission is to advance business and Latino opportunities for success through inclusive and progressive mentoring, networking and education.

Ivan Rodriguez Government Relations Officer for JTA will be working as a liaison between his company and our community and government agencies.