

MHAAB MINUTES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Mayor's Conference room, 4th Floor of City Hall

Board Present: Jennifer Silva, Jose Cuetos, Marivi Wright, Jose Morales, Elizabeth Pantoja, Angel Santiago, Jorge Lopez, Meredith Moore

Board Absent: Agustin Vautier, Tomas Jimenez, Jr., Cristina Echeverry

Staff Present: Laura Davis, Dr. Johnny Gaffney

Guests/Visitors: Mayor Lenny Curry, Demika Jackson, Dan Merka, Dina Boscio

Meeting called to order at 9:08 AM. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence. Quorum was met and minutes from January 2019 were approved.

Chair Jen Silva reported that the current account balance is \$809, which seems to reflect an increase in funds.

Liaison Laura Davis provided an Ethics in a Nutshell handout and clarified that no emailing can take place about board business. Example-Jose's flyer can go to the distribution list, but no email interchange can take place individually or as a group. If Laura is not available, contact Lois Smokes. Laura will send Lois' information to the Chair. No texting about locations or anything else. No thread or blind copy; Laura receives and sends all communication.

Guest/Public Comments: Dina Boscio joined the meeting as a volunteer and advocate for the Hispanic community. Jose Cuetos, President of the National Association of Real Estate Professionals, introduced Dina, who serves as treasurer. She will assist with housing issues, perhaps as part of an ad hoc committee. Jose announced that they will have a networking event March 12, 4-6 pm at Tierra Gaucha. MHAAB and Hispanic Chamber are invited to this event.

Meet-and-Greet: Invitations have not gone out. Laura cited Sunshine Law and emphasized that all board members must be invited, posed questions about potentially having several hundred people meet, expressed concern about limits on what could be discussed, investigated wording for multiple boards, and received new wording Friday, February 15. Discussion ensued about adjusting the date and different approaches to holding the meet-and-greet. About 100 people can fit in the Lynwood room. Original time of event was 5-7 PM; this was changed to 4-6 PM to avoid paying security at \$150 per hour. Alternative locations and dates discussed. Member vote confirmed Thursday, March 21 from 4-6 PM. For small snacks, let Laura know what each member will bring. If a company sponsors food, Laura needs the insurance. Jose will donate from his company.

During the Meet-and-Greet, for 30-45 minutes, we'll share the MHAAB mission, committee activities, summary of our strategic plan, member introductions, and then have guests share their boards' missions and activities and how we might collaborate between boards. The rest of the time will be informal meeting to connect. Chair suggested that this could become a yearly or bi-annual event. Laura confirmed that invitations would go out on February 20. Meredith Moore suggested that MHAAB members represent each interest area so boards could participate in informal breakout sessions for the 5 committees for about 15 minutes. Summary: introduction, mission, strategic plan, chair from each speaks, breakout with table tops for 15 minutes, then share. Members should think of 3 questions for each subcommittee to pose to each group regarding the issues we're trying to solve. A program will have our letterhead and schedule, our names and contact information. The program will be submitted on the March 19th meeting for confirmation. Laura will forward RSVPs to Cristina. All MHAAB members will be present at 2:30 on March 21 at Lynwood Roberts room. Laura will see if the Atrium is available for overflow.

Meeting requests sent to Council Members depend on election results. Council members were all invited to MHAAB meetings, and some will be attending upcoming meetings. The Chair will invite Mayor Curry to stop by our Meet-and-Greet.

Bylaw revisions were non-substantive except for the following: 1. Removing the section 2.2 D that states absences shall be excused. Board voted to remove. Seconded. Approved without discussion. 2. Addition of language: Notice of any amendments or repeal of *amendments* shall be contained in the notice.... Seconded. Approved without discussion. Meredith will change the rest of the non-substantive changes by the next meeting, March 19.

Letter was sent to the Mayor to formally remove Tomas Jimenez Jr. from MHAAB based on attendance and will find out the timeline for future members from the waiting list.

Subcommittee Updates:

Housing: Jacksonville is listed as one of best cities to live in. Every county has seen an increase in the median price of housing. MLS shows a median price increase of 39%, which increases the tax base and shows growth. Putnam County has had a 63% increase; Duval (including beaches) is roughly 45%. We are in a seller's market. Hispanic home ownership has increased just slightly nationwide since 2015. Closing assistance and training is helping the Hispanic community realize the dream of being homeowners. MHAAB can provide talking-points to city leadership on these kinds of trends in revitalization. The Chair asked Jose to draft a paragraph regarding this data. Jorge shared further data about Hispanic spending that can be added to this document.

Public Relations: Jorge suggested a 5- to 8-minute monthly radio spot about what's going on the community; the Chair wants to have different board members participate. Jorge will provide dates and times for a Tuesday each month. Laura will coordinate with our Public Information Office because interviews are prohibited. Laura will set up the

meeting for Jorge, Jose and Jen with the PIO. Jorge suggested pre-recorded announcements for screening. Meredith suggested a 12-month calendar of monthly themes. JSO International Affairs can coordinate so that undocumented people are also hearing the same message.

Public Safety & Veterans: Angel Santiago reported that statistically crimes are down, but robberies continue to affect Hispanics, and suspects don't believe that victims will report crimes due to fear of being deported. Victims are protected from deportation, which is the message to get out to the community. Meredith and Angel met with the International Affairs Unit and will work to develop curriculum to help officers learn more about other cultures. Angel is working to incorporate victim assistance information in *La Guia*.

Health & Faith-Based: Elizabeth Pantoja shared about the need to decrease health disparity. The committee plans to bring MHAAB to stakeholder workshops in September. Stakeholders include community leaders like Volunteers in Medicine and LGBTQ+ such as Dr. Felix Soto, who helps Hispanics in identity crisis, which hopefully will impact suicide rates. These efforts in health education are beneficial to the community at large. This year's theme is neurological diseases. The Chair asked for a report on the Newtown Success Zone group (Mayo Clinic, UF, Edward Waters, Volunteers in Medicine, and many others) and Marivi Wright shared that they're doing a great job. Workshop attendance by clients is required in order to receive services. Marivi will see if we could visit one of their meetings as MHAAB. Elizabeth shared that Mayo Clinic's Healthy Zone has been extended 3 more years and that accountability and trust has been established. Health Zone 1 is the primary area of health care disparity in the city. Demika Jackson shared that University of Florida has received a grant from Humana for \$820,000 for Health Zone 1 for seniors. Dina Boscio commented on her experience in Michigan and Mexico, in sister and partner city arrangements, on her love for the Hispanic community, on working with City Rescue Mission and how Hispanics don't seem to be homeless, and on resources for those leaving jail. Informational items should be sent to Laura for dissemination.

Education: no updates.

Invitations were passed out to Children's Champion Awards Luncheon honoring State Attorney Melissa Nelson, who is an important advocate of health, family, and crime prevention. The Cure Violence Program is in the needs-assessment stage, and we want to support the Mayor's efforts to that end.

Included in meeting materials is a document called MHAAB Board Meeting Key Points-Mayor Lenny Curry. Discussion points were sent by the Chair to the Mayor's office outlining MHAAB goals and proposals to get a sense of his intentions for the board. In addition, the Mayor will be receiving all strategic plans by next month. Members should send all subcommittee strategy plans and end-of year 2018 reports to Laura for submission in March. Because all materials must be translated into Spanish, please provide English text in doc form and be aware that images will not be translated. Members need to add themselves to Facebook MHAAB.

Subcommittee Discussion

Mayor Lenny Curry was introduced to all MHAAB members and the Chair presented the committee groups, mentioned the multi-board Meet-and-Greet, and emphasized our desire to support the Mayor's initiatives. The Mayor has been addressing the neglect of basic equipment in police and fire departments as well as neighborhood infrastructure. Mayor Curry briefed the Board on Cure Violence, which involves targeted investment in policing and prevention. Cure Violence considers violence a disease and tries to disrupt small groups involved in gangs or drugs by hiring community members with credibility, who don't pass judgment, in order to disrupt the problem. The program works to change behaviors and mindsets; many of the representatives are ex-offenders serving as "physicians" to fight the disease, who act as role models for others. There is no cost analysis yet, but it is likely the City will move forward on this initiative. Certain areas will be targeted, and the disruptor role is key. Community buy-in and wraparound services for food, health, training, and employment are also key to decreasing violence. The Mayor will ensure that MHAAB is informed in order to reach our community. His accomplishments include pension debt funds now being invested in communities and neglected promises on septic tank removal now being addressed.

The Chair described our efforts to work with the media and PIO office. The Mayor will send his department heads to meet with MHAAB. Sharon is our liaison to the Mayor's office. Members were urged to share about any part of the city that needs support, and the Mayor will respond. There have been spikes in violence over several years, but nothing like the 30% spikes seen before. The Chair summarized the Key Points document and emphasized our desire to assist. Photos were taken of the group.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Minutes submitted by Meredith Moore on 3/18/19