

# **Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** Jorge Lopez, Jen Silvia, Marivi Wright, Miguel Di Pierri, Elizabeth Pantoja, Jose Morales, Demika Jackson.

**Absent Board Members (excused):** Cristina Echeverry

**Staff Present:** Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Liaison to Mayor, Kara, Lois

**Guests:** Christian Pagan, Marketing Manager with Alive Credit Union and Rose Gunter, CEO of Alive Credit Union. Dina Boscio of Watson.

**Introduction:** 9:00 AM Meeting was called to order by Chair Silva. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chair Silva.

### **Public Comments**

Christian Pagan gave a presentation regarding Alive Credit Union's purpose and offers low cost banking services. Locally, Alive is focused on offering services to the local Hispanic population. Some of the steps Alive is doing to cater to our Hispanic community include: hiring bilingual employees, having a diverse volunteer board, accepting other forms of ID for loans such as the 1-10 and alternative forms of ID.

### **New Business**

The MHAAB nomination process for board membership was discussed by Chair Silva. Angel Santiago had to resign from the board due to his work schedule. There is currently a vacancy on the board. Rachel Locker has been scheduling interviews to help fill the spot for MHAAB. Meredith's position also needs to be filled. We need someone with a business background, especially with the vacancy of Jose Cuetos' position. A summary of the committees was made and encouraged the promotion of board position openings. In some cases, it takes a year to fill a position. Cristina's position is due to expire in March as well, which will be another vacancy that needs to be filled. At the moment, there are 5 candidates in the pipeline for approval. Those interested in serving on the board should be encouraged to attend meetings to make sure it is a good fit for both parties.

### **Hispanic Leadership Awards**

Chair Silva gave a review of the planning of the Hispanic Leadership Awards program. MHAAB members were asked to arrive at 4:00PM for set-up. The event will start at 6:00PM and all attendees will be asked to move to the chamber room at 6:30PM. The letter from the mayor arrived addressed to the public for the event. The agenda for the HLA program was discussed. Marivi will be opening the event with a welcome. Dr. Charles Moreland will be a guest speaker for the event and Victor Cora will be discussing the 2020 Census. Monica Hernandez will be representing the Hispanic Chamber. Dr. Richard White will be giving the keynote address (J. Silva). E. Pantoja

mentioned he is a pediatrician at Mayo Clinic and is very active in the Hispanic community. The timing of each guest for the event was discussed. MHAAB members reviewed details of the planning of the event and gave suggestions as needed.

### **Committee Updates and Announcements**

Volunteers of Medicine will be having an event on October 5<sup>th</sup> focused on Men's Health.

E. Pantoja mentioned on September 28<sup>th</sup> Mayo Clinic will be hosting an event at the Shultz Center focusing on improving patient care through an outcomes to research grant. The goal is to learn more about the patients and impact patient care. The event is scheduled to educate the community on how to offer better patient care and build the infrastructure. Volunteers of Medicine will be in attendance as well as representatives from other hospital entities such as UF, Baptist and St. Vincent.

Annie Grogan is leading an initiative with Volunteers of Medicine for its Hispanic task force (D. Jackson).

A candidate in attendance is interested in submitting her resume for consideration for serving on the board.

Dr. Gaffney had no updates but commended the efforts of MHAAB.

J. Morales witnessed a lot of collaboration between all of the nonprofit organizations in the community. He's co-hosting a community event at the zoo with the City of Jacksonville. The event will feature local nonprofit organizations and the services they provide. The cost for entrance is \$2 and will take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

J. Lopez announced Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 – October 15. On Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration will take place in Hemming Park from 5:00PM – 8:30PM and iHeart Radio will be the emcee.

J. Silva mentioned that the Achieving the Dream Scholarship Award Gala Event on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The Hispanic film festival is in St. Augustine on October 3<sup>rd</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup>.

M. Wright encouraged others to share local event information through social media as well as UNF for free. Marivi also announced an opening at her place of employment and asked others to share the opportunity to those qualified which include being bilingual (English/Spanish) and have a bachelor's degree.

**Minutes Approval** – Approval of the August 2019 minutes unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned by J. Silva at 10:16AM.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by C. Echeverry on October 14, 2019 (due to absence, reviewed audio recording of minutes submitted by Matthew Jackson).**