

Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council (MYLAC)

January 31, 2024

Minutes

Proceedings of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council taken on January 31, 2024, via Zoom and in-person commencing at 2:33.

Committee Members Attending

Aria Brown, Henry Bryan, Julius Graham, Anjali Gusani, Kayleigh Gutierrez, Amenda Idumwonyi, Samya Jones, Vineet Khanolkar, Zhian Legare, Jailyn Martinez, Sy'Teria Morrell, Adna Mutic, Elizabeth Owens, Rushil Parikh, Sai Rathnam, Prenneka Riley, Celia Ross, Ashton Scott, Jordin Stone, Nathaniel Thacker, Jaden Tran, William Waller, Daniel Warner, and Jaice Wilkins.

Staff Attending

Zachary Brown and Michelle Clowe

(2:33) Meeting called to order by Zachary Brown

(2:35) Abdul Hai Thomas, Child and Youth Ombudsman at Center for Children's Rights, begins to address MYLAC membership

- Center for Children's Rights wants civil engagement from youth in Jacksonville.
- Abdul Hai also works with the State of Young People (SOYP) and they currently want to get youth in front of people who make decisions in young people's lives every day.

MYLAC is invited to attend a city council meeting on Saturday, February 10th at Jacksonville City Hall from 10am – 2pm.

- Membership will meet with city councilman Jimmy Peluso, council representative for district 7 (Health zone 1- zip codes: 32202, 32204, 32206, 32208, 32209, and 32254) which covers communities that have heavy disparities due to various reasons.

(2:37) Abdul Hai Thomas speaks about Youth Action Series

- A coalition of stakeholders who aim to reestablish health zone 1 as a

historic and healthy community.

Youth Action Series meets the first Saturday of every month to work on community revitalization and beautification projects in the 32209 area: trash pick up, conducting indoor air quality surveys and purification installations with the University of Florida and Edward Waters University, and free home repair services.

- Works with MYLAC, NAACP youth councils, SOYP, JAGS 5000 Role Models, and various other youth organizations

(2:39) Abdul Hai Thomas reviewed talking points from a previous meeting held with MYLAC advisors, Malachi Bryant (President), Anjali Gusani (Vice President), and Kayleigh Gutierrez (Secretary), on January 30th.

- MYLAC Marching in on Literacy, March 16 th , 2024, will be held concurrently with the Youth Health Summit at the Emmett Reed Center Youth Action Series (YAS) would like to extend collaboration efforts to MYLAC membership to create long-term projects.

- YAS acts as facilitators to address issues impacting Jacksonville. They take a participatory action research approach to address issues discussed during meetings every other Monday, organizations such as MYLAC are allowed to attend these meetings.

Youth Action Series is currently looking for literacy advocates to expand and reach to other areas in Jacksonville.

(2:44) City Hall Council Meeting Etiquette

- Dress appropriately and professionally to represent MYLAC.
- Membership will be operating under Article 12 of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of a Child. Members may speak freely or advocate for themselves in an appropriate and unified manner.

Share information with Abdul Hai Thomas to continue with the collaborative work after MYLAC ends in May of 2024.

- SOYP would love to serve as a bridge between the time MYLAC ends in May and the time MYLAC starts up again in October to ensure change for Jacksonville families and youth continues.

(2:51) Recommendations for City Hall Council Meeting

- Determine ways to collect data during MYLAC Marching in on Literacy event to measure outcomes and compare them to our set goals.

- MYLAC members must come up with key passion topics to speak about in front of council members before February 10th to truly create changes

- “This is a process, not a product.”

- Mention the idea of creating a program to meet long-term literacy and academic success advocacy goals in Jacksonville.

(2:55) Abdul Hai finishes his address to MYLAC membership

(2:56) Zachary Brown hands out Student Information Forms for membership

(3:19) Vice President Anjali Gusani introduces Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer for the Kids Hope Alliance.

Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) is a funding agent that annually invests millions in children and youth programming and services in Duval County, FL. She also serves as the Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Women’s Giving Alliance of Northeast FL. Saralyn’s passion lies in supporting nonprofits so they can do the important work of serving our most vulnerable children. She has worked hard to create efficiencies within the governmental system so that service providers can spend more time serving those in need – and making a lasting difference in Jacksonville’s future for generations to come. Dr. Grass has been with the City since 2019 and has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector and ten of those as an executive.

(3:22) Dr. Saralyn Grass starts the discussion with MYLAC membership

- KHA has funded over 200 nonprofits for children, youth, and families.

- They give out around \$60 million dollars a year.

- The mayor and city council helps decide where funding goes.

- City council meets 2 times a month on the 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of every month at 5pm.

(3:27) Dr. Saralyn Glass opens the floor to questions and comments

- Neighborhood council is described as a representative for people in neighborhoods within Jacksonville who decide on changes addressed or done in certain areas.

- Parks and Recreation department and Kids Hope Alliance collaborate to be in agreement with what is being done in children and youth programming and services.

- Kids Hope Alliance makes sure to be equal when selecting organizations to fund. KHA uses a system where individuals bid on different aspects of what, how, and where organizations would serve the community and the

KHA tallies up those bids and selects the most voted for bids to take into consideration.

- City council and school board members meet together to collaborate on efficient ways to assess various issues facing Jacksonville youth.
- Students raise concerns about many issues they have observed regarding important information not being shared equally and efficiently within Duval County schools.

(4:16) Dr. Saralyn Grass ends her discussion with MYLAC

(4:20) Vice President Anjali Gusani begins to share important reminders with the membership

- Turn in Media Release forms (ASAP)
 - Email MYLAC essays to Zachary Brown if you haven't already and still have access to them.
 - Fill out and turn in Student Information sheets to Zachary Brown (ASAP)
- College scholarship opportunity for high school juniors: The Horatio Alger Association Scholarship
- Up to \$25,000
 - This scholarship is for students who demonstrate financial need and display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity. They encourage MYLACt students to apply because they believe our possibilities are endless.

Scholarship Eligibility:

- Be enrolled full time as a high school junior in the United States
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited non-profit public or private institution in the US.
- Demonstrate financial need (\$65,000 or lower adjusted gross family income is required)
- Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities.
- Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
- Be a United States citizen.

Deadline for submission is March 15, 2024, at 12:00 Noon.

- City Hall Meeting: Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 10am – 2pm
- Next MYLAC Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 2:30pm - 6:00pm

(4:23) Attendance was called by Kayleigh Gutierrez

(4:27) Zachary Brown announces that membership will be breaking out into groups to discuss our Marching in on Literacy Teen Initiative project

(4:28) Bathroom break

(4:39) Membership breaks out into two groups: games and book donations group and crafts, reading buddy, and flyers group.

(5:37) Both groups share their ideas and discussions with membership

Anjali Gusani represents the games and book donations group:

- Book drives and donation boxes
 - Book walk
- Spelling bee competition for candy
 - Word searches
 - Mad-Libs

Kayleigh Gutierrez represents the crafts, reading buddy, and flyers group:

- Create a 4-page book for children to express themselves by writing stories and making illustrations based on what they wrote
 - Create a "Forky" i.e. Toy Story 4
 - Supply list created
- Puppet show with two sessions, one based off of a book and the other based on a short story
 - Flyers will be created to advertise the March in on Literacy event and brochures with important information will be available for parents (will be handed out to membership during next meeting on February 28 th)
- Reading buddies (sock puppets) will also be created to encourage literacy

(5:41) Meeting is adjourned