

Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council (MYLAC)

February 28, 2024

Minutes

Proceedings of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council taken on February 28, 2024, via Zoom and in-person commencing at 2:34pm.

Committee Members Attending

Amber Bansal, Aria Brown, Henry Bryan, Malachi Bryant, Cayden Force-Cunniff, Julius Graham, Anjali Gusani, Kayleigh Gutierrez, Amenda Idumwonyi, Samya Jones, Vineet Khanolkar, Zhian Legare, Jailyn Martinez, Skye Mason-Raper, Sy'Teria Morrell, Adna Mutic, Elizabeth Owens, Rushil Parikh, Krish Patel, Akilah Prier, Prenneka Riley, Celia Ross, Jordin Stone, Nathaniel Thacker, Jaden Tran, William Waller, Daniel Warner, Jaice Wilkins, Zion Williams, and Katie Wong.

Staff Attending

Zachary Brown, Nikki Thompson, and Michelle Clowe

(2:34) Meeting called to order by MYLAC President, Anjali Gusani.

Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and discussed with membership.

- House Keeping Items: Fill out and turn in MYLAC essay and information sheet as soon as possible if you have not already.
- Mock Student City Hall that was held on February 10th was spoken about by those who attended.
 - Marching in on Literacy Teen Initiative Project
- Mandatory attendance for all MYLAC members and if missed your scholarship will be in jeopardy.
- Event will be held on March 16th from 10:00am – 4:00pm but membership should arrive at around 9:30am to begin setting up for the event.
- Address: Emmett Reed Community Center, 1093 W. Sixth St, Jacksonville, FL, 32209
 - MYLAC Field Trip to City Hall
- 117 W Duval St., Jacksonville, FL, 32209.
- Tuesday, March 19, 2024, during DCPS spring break.
 - Community Project at Jacksonville Humane Society

- March 30th, 2024, from 10:00am – 12:00pm at 8464 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL, 32216.
- 2-hour in-service day at JHS
- If interested, notify MYLAC in order to participate and turn in the Field Trip Release Form, which was provided during this meeting, to Zachary with parent or guardian signature if under the age of 18.
- Helpful Tips: Indoor event, wear closed toe shoes and comfy shoes that can get messy, and bring water.

(2:42) MYLAC Secretary, Kayleigh Gutierrez, calls attendance and gives an overview of the meeting minutes from the January 30th MYLAC meeting.

(3:00) Standing MYLAC President change announcement

- Anjali Gusani is the new standing President of MYLAC
- Vice President election will be held at the end of this meeting

(3:04) Book sorting for the Teen Initiative Project

(3:13) Book Sorting paused

(3:14) Short break for membership

(3:17) Anjali Gusani introduces Dr. Trayce Polson, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of Mayor Donna Deegan.

- Everyone introduces themselves around the room

(3:20) Dr. Trayce Polson introduces herself and gives insight into her journey

Advice: Do not be afraid to ask for help and find people who can uplift and help you succeed in life.

- Works with nonprofit organizations focused on the betterment of the city of Jacksonville.
- Started off as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker/ Mental Health Professional
- Worked with families but wanted to impact people in a broader way so she got involved in policy and government.
- Ran for State Legislature in 2018 and created relationships and asking for help from other people in that field. She met Donna Deegan while running for office and they became friends. The two supported each other in their individual campaigns.
- In 2022, Donna Deegan ran for mayor of Jacksonville and won. Dr. Trayce Polson was then appointed to become the Director of Strategic Partnerships.

- Dr. Trayce Polson was inspired by her drive to make a difference within families by addressing violence. Now, she uses her mental health and systems training to work on fixing big problems within the city by bringing people together and getting them on the right track to success.

(3:40) How MYLAC can get involved in River-city Readers:

- Donna Deegan is working on helping 8 schools in need of assistance by providing volunteer youth readers to improve literacy in Jacksonville.
- MYLAC can get connected with these schools to assist in this process.
- Mayor's schedule is available on the city of Jacksonville website. You can access the location and time of the next literary event and how to volunteer.

(3:49) Mayor Donna Deegan's administration is extremely involved and focused on what needs to be done to improve the city.

(3:51) Dr. Polson answers a question about getting a council of youth to help create changes in the city with the mayor.

- Mayor Donna Deegan's administration is currently working on engagement with young people who want to get involved.
- Share ideas within MYLAC so that they are heard and acted upon by the mayor's administration.

(4:06) Picture with Trayce Polson

(4:07) Trayce Polson finishes her presentation and exits.

(4:08) 10 Minute bathroom break

(4:20) Teen Initiative project groups break apart to work on their part for the Marching in on Literacy event

- Sock puppet kits and packets
- Poster and resource flyer creation
- Book sorting

(5:39) Groups come together and the vice-presidential election commences

- Krish Patel gives his candidacy speech
- Samaya Jones gives her candidacy speech

(5:42) Voting commences

- Each member received a piece of paper to write in their vote for the new MYLAC vice president.

(5:45) Samaya Jones was elected as the new vice president of MYLAC.

(5:47) MYLAC end of year meeting will be held on May 17th, 2024.

- Time to be announced

(5:49) Meeting adjourned