

Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Draft

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Board Members Present: A. Burst, R. Caldera, M. Decunto, C. Echeverry, I. Gropper, T. Jimenez, J. Montero, C. Mantay, E. Pantoja

Absent Board Members (Excused): N/A

Staff Present: Jose Lacayo

Guests: Betzy Santiago

Guests: N/A

Welcome: 9:00 AM Meeting was called to order by Rafael Caldera. A quorum was confirmed. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Jesus Montero.

Minutes Approval – The minutes for February 9th were approved after corrections were made (replace “catalyze” with “expedite” under item 5, letter D. On page 2 under item 5, change to “how MHAAB can”). E. Pantoja asked for clarification regarding quarterly hours report. (I. Gropper motion; C. Mantay second).

Fiscal and Executive Updates

J. Lacayo reported the same amount of funds as last month for the MHAAB account of \$1,006.87.

Facebook update: James Croft recommend that only one person update the Facebook page. J. Montero mentioned while administering/updating the Facebook page there has been an 80% increase in its fan base. J. Montero asked for clarification regarding Facebook duties and to either give one person responsibility to manage the page or give responsibilities back to the City Liaison. R. Caldera requested clarification of what can be posted. He wanted to know if it is to promote MHAAB alone or also include events/activities for the City of Jacksonville. MHAAB can post information on events MHAAB takes part in. J. Lacayo will clarify with the Ciudad de Jacksonville what can be posted on Facebook and will update the board via email.

R. Caldera reported on the new board member update: received another application from M. Decunto but no new update regarding Dr. Danny Palido. The two board members that have been reappointed Alicia Burst and Mario Decunto.

I. Gropper, recommends that when board members recommend someone, the candidate's information should be shared with all board members to include a resume. A couple of people should have a meeting with Jessica with the City of Jacksonville and remind her of the urgency of replacing board members. The change of leadership with the City of Jacksonville has caused confusion regarding applications for MHAAB. J. Lacayo now has access to the MHAAB email. I. Gropper discussed any emails regarding nominations should not be lost during the transition of the new administration. This error can be prevented if individuals copy the MHAAB email when recommending candidates. A. Burst mentioned that Ammaury Carrasco applied to serve on MHAAB (we are waiting for approval).

T. Jimenez asked if MHAAB members could be given a City of Jacksonville email for public records and to help keep emails/information organized. J. Lacayo will follow up. Last name first name coj.net.

Community Partnership Meeting:

Committee partnership will be most beneficial for MHAAB (R. Caldera). Each members take three hours of its time to reach organizations. Members then ask how MHAAB can assist other partner groups. R. Caldera asked to release the list the City of Jacksonville has to MHAAB and make contacts community partnership in July. If MHAAB succeeds with reaching 21 organizations, MHAAB will then review feedback of the Community Partnership Committee. There should be a distribution of public notice to contacts as well as a presentation to the community. A public hearing notice should be submitted to approximately 100 MHAAB contacts. Once this occurs, the date should then be sent as a public notice. T. Jimenez should include agenda in public meeting notice. R. Caldera will send a notice regarding the public meeting and agenda for public. T. Jimenez mentioned that he has never seen an agenda coupled with an announcement except for City Council. The public should be aware of the agenda so that they are prepared (T. Jimenez).

Betsy Santiago gave a background on how the community partnership meeting was conducted in the past. I. Gropper clarified the purpose of the meeting. There is a list of 100 Hispanic agencies among the board and the board individually selected who they will connect with and talk about community partnership event and identifies which group is interested in participating. Education, business, health and voluntary work, question and answer. The purpose of community partnership meeting is that MHAAB works as an umbrella as a medium regarding services they provide to Hispanic community to support synergy among the agencies and offer support. The public is invited in addition to the agencies. Certain organizations were identified. Each event had a theme for that particular meeting such as health or education. There would be experts during that time. If it were health, focused on specific health issues regarding the Hispanic community. Decunto mentioned it may be an overwhelming response. Limit t 10 presenters and bring pamphlets out and provide information after the meeting. Mantay, creating a network that's not there.

Gropper, committee for community partnership and research what's done in past to move forward to this community. Burst, Mario, Elizabeth and Thomas volunteered to be on a subcommittee. Caldera created the committee. Thomas asked what the function of the committee is: give a recommendation? Caldera will support the committee and share three years' worth of emails.

Committee Reports

Health and Public Safety

M. Decunto met with Selina Webster-Bass regarding a limited grant which funds her position focused on helping the community pertaining to health issues. There was a successful event last year at FSCJ's South Campus in which about 300 people. M. Decunto was a presenter. Community resources supported the event and private Hispanic entities came. There was a lot of involvement pertaining to planning meetings to include the involvement of Dr. Pattie Josephson.

E. Pantoja reported that Mayo Clinic hosted a community event (partnered with local churches) focused on healthier lives. Dr. White was the main speaker of the function. During the event there was discussion of wanting grant money to help the Jacksonville community. There is a great need for more mental health education. There was a breakfast meeting on February 26th. There will be a health fair on April 23rd at Hispanic church of God, open to the public. Lots of hospitals and entities will also be involved with the event..

Education

C. Echeverry discussed goals for education committee. The committee will research and update the list of institutions of higher education in the Jacksonville area that offer scholarships for Hispanics. (Contact: Ida Gropper and Tina Echeverry). The committee will partner with Florida State College at Jacksonville and attend all ESOL Open House events. The MHAAB table will have two representatives available to answer questions and provide information to the public regarding MHAAB's services (Contact: Tina). The committee will continue involvement with the Achieving the Dream Scholarship Event (Contact: Tina Echeverry). The committee will participate in the One by One Convention: Moving Public Education Forward event. This will include facilitating conversations representing the Hispanic population as well as attending break-out sessions to obtain information that will benefit the population we serve (Contact: Tina Echeverry). The committee will attend school board meetings (Contact: Tina Echeverry). The committee will follow-up with schools offering Spanish/English programs in elementary schools previously established by our board to ensure standards are being met and that the program is operating as discussed and promoted. Meet with other schools in the Jacksonville area not offering the program to give information and encourage development (Contact, Tina Echeverry).

The MHAAB flyer should be updated to include the MHAAB email address instead of a phone number to ensure that messages are being checked accordingly.

After this meeting, C. Echeverry will be the only member serving on the education committee.

Economic and Faith Based

T. Jimenez had no update. Pastor Rigoberto Vasquez worked on religious visas to do the work of God in Jacksonville. Attended Hispanic American church in town. VICAP Conference which was successful over fifteen hundred people attend. Pastor Alex Fiunez. The House of Prayer provided food and clothing every Tuesday 4:00PM – 6:00PM with Pastor Johnson from Avance Imicionero Church.

La Guia

A. Burst reported that Jose Rodriquez from Florida Blue mentioned they will be supporting La Guia. The need the following in order to get final approval: Twenty one hundred and ninety dollars in order to offer five thousand copies. Mayo and Florida Blue may offer to provide funds to support the initiative. E. Pantoja would like clarification if this the cost that MHAAB is paying or the organization in MHAAB pay. Hartley press offers a better price. Florida Blue wants to know what the benefits are for them to be a sponsor of La Guia. The benefit of being a sponsor is to provide information to the Hispanic community. E. Pantoja wanted to know how many levels of sponsorships there will be. For example, La Guia could offer different levels of sponsorships for a quarter page, half page... R. Caldera asked what MHAAB's role is with La Guia. Currently, MHAAB is partnering with Duval County to publish La Guia to offer its endorsement. Most of the work is being supported by the health department. J. Montero clarified that MHAAB is operating as a self-appropriating fund, receive funds and allocate appropriate line item. I. Gropper, asked J. Montero who should sponsors make funds payable to? J. Montero clarified that payments should be made to: City of Jacksonville in care of Mayors Hispanic American advisory board trust fund. Before moving forward, we should ask for clarification of funds and an MOU in regards to whatever partners MHAAB has. There are five pages in the book now but that can change at any point if La Guia will be used as a fundraiser. There should be a plan moving forward.

Hispanic Leadership Awards

Caldera clarified that there was a motion stating that MHAAB will go with this support with the mayor's office. To move forward MHAAB needs a draft letter from the Mayor's Office to see if there would be participation in the Mayor's Hispanic Leadership Awards. There has not been any decisions of dates or location. Discussions regarding involvement should happen during a board meeting, not through emails. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) guidelines were distributed for new board members to review. SOPs were adopted in 2013 which is the first time the Hispanic Leadership Awards were offered. MHAAB is still waiting for the acceptance of the Mayor's participation. J. Montero voiced his concern about not moving forward with the event and being stuck in planning phase. He also mentioned that nothing has been done since October (in reference to MHAAB). J. Montero shared concerns of the MHAAB Chair undermining the HLA organization process by not giving J. Montero autonomy to move forward. Furthermore, J.

Montero mentioned that there were lots of great nominations for HLA this year. It is the Chair's decision to create subcommittee. The Chair clarified that MHAAB members asked for draft letter and it was not solely the Chair's decision. It was then discussed to open the lines of communication with the Mayor's staff/assistant. J. Montero requested to set date so that he could move forward with the planning phase of the HLA. T. Jimenez moved to strike what we've done in the past. HLA should try to secure a venue and organize the event and then invite the Mayor to it. A. Burst mentioned that we need the Mayor's availability. C. Mantay, mentioned at this point MHAAB is involved too much with the details. I. Gropper asked Julio what his thoughts were of financing event. J. Montero was going to find out what costs on the basis of awarding 10 people. I. Gropper asked who was on the committee. Only Montero was on the committee. There was a motion to discuss the creation of an HLA committee. I. Gropper made first motion and J. Montero seconded the motion. T. Jimenez volunteered to serve on the HLA Committee along with J. Montero. I. Gropper mentioned that committees are able to offer recommendations to MHAAB and MHAAB members give the final decision collectively via vote.

World of Nations

M. Decunto gave the World of Nations (WON) update. The application for the event has been submitted. MHAAB is currently waiting on the insurance waiver. A. Burst would like to have the tablecloth completed for this event. She mentioned that the logo on tablecloth will reflect the City of Jacksonville's logo and the wording of MHAAB beneath it.

Old Business

C. Caldera discussed the process of submitting the annual report. The report usually is written in December and is submitted in January to the Mayor. C. Caldera asked MHAAB members if the report should be submitted by fiscal year or calendar year? He recommended that the report be submitted at the end of the fiscal year instead of the calendar year due to the change of Chairs towards the end of the year. Currently, the bylaws mention that it should be submitted by January 31st (T. Jimenez). Each committee is asked to submit the committee report. Submit quarterly hours in two weeks from today (March 22nd) to Chair Caldera July - December 31 as well as January - current.

New Business

New business, J. Montero made a motion to remove current Chair Caldera through a blind election. There was no second motion. Montero continued to explain since October the MHAAB board has done nothing. Since October, Chair Caldera has undermine every initiative and try to block progress. Some examples of no progress being made include the Facebook initiative, World of Nations event and submitting quarterly reports. J. Montero mentioned that MHAAB is not looked upon favorably. MHAAB should be reporting to City Council but reports are going unpublished. MHAAB should be supporting the community (J. Montero). After giving

background information to the board, the motion to remove the current Chair Caldera was restated. There was no second motion. J. Montero then added that he spoke to the Mayor and mentioned MHAAB has not done anything recently.

Chair Caldera then took some time to give background. He has served on board four years, has been on various sub committees and has never missed a MHAAB meeting. R. Caldrea mentioned he does not have power to undermine individuals. Board members are to bring ideas to the table. MHAAB is working on the World of Nations event currently. The MHAAB has the power to vote and support subcommittees. Board members are given power to take the board to next level.

A. Burst mentioned that sometimes MHAAB appears not to be moving forward but we need to be sensitive to the changes of administration and MHAAB has not had the support it has had in the past. The goal for board is to become relevant again. MHAAB has the best interest for the community at heart. Everyone on the board is like family. A. Burst would like to move forward with the current board members recruit more members.

Reminders:

- a. Next Meeting – April 12, 2016, Mayor’s Meeting Room 4th floor.
- b. Service hours due next month (July of 2015 – Present)

Public Comments

N/A

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Caldera at: 11:00 am

Meeting Minutes Draft Submitted by: C. Echeverry 3/14/2016