



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Metro Miami Action Plan Trust

Office of the Metro Miami Action Plan Trust
19 West Flagler Street
Mezzanine Room 106
Miami, Florida 33128

April 22, 2008
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Madry Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Karen Leonard, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1296



OFFICIAL MINUTES
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2008

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMA) convened a meeting at the Office of MMA Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on April 22, 2008 at 12:00 Noon, there being present: Chairperson John T. Jones, and Members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, and Mr. Herbert Robinson; (Ms. Greicy Lovin, Ms. Veldrin Freemon, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

ROLL CALL:

Staff members present were: Mr. John Dixon, MMA Trust Interim Executive Director; Ms. Marlene Blanco, Mr. Clarke Brian, Ms. Melba Gasque, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Mr. William Simmons, Mr. Joey Walker, and Mr. Anthony Williams; Assistant County Attorney Terrence Smith and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES

Approval of Previous Minutes

(September 19, 2007, October 9, 2007, October 17, 2007, November 14, 2007, December 19, 2007)

It was moved by Ms. Marie Hyppolite to approve the September 19, 2007 MMA minutes with the corrected spelling of Assistant County Attorney Terrence Smith's name. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

Hearing no objection or comment, it was moved by Mr. Barnes that the MMA minutes for the meetings of October 9, 2007, October 17, 2007, and November 14, 2007 be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

Hearing no objection or comment, it was moved by Ms. Marie Hyppolite to approve December 19, 2007 MMA minutes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

- I. Trust Action Items**
 - A. Committee Action Items**
 - 1. Housing
 - 2. Education
 - A. Black History Tour**

Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP's staff was asked by the Trust to review this year's tour because several sites were discussed that needed to be modified. He noted the itinerary in the agenda package reflected what was approved by the Trust in order for the staff to move forward with the invoice. Mr. Dixon added that the event would be held on June 8th – 14th 2008.

In response to Mr. Barnes' request for clarification regarding the final cost of the trip, Mr. Dixon noted the final cost of the Black History Tour would be \$30,200.00.

It was moved by Mr. Robinson to approve the invoice in the amount of \$30,200.00 from the General Fund Budget for the Black History Tours event and the sites to be visited by the MLK Academy students which were based on 40 attendees and nine (9) chaperones on June 8th through June 14, 2008. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent.)

3. Criminal Justice
4. Community and Economic Development
5. Legislative

A. Becker and Poliakoff Renewal

Mr. Simmons provided a brief update on the Becker and Poliakoff renewal contract that was proposed for renewal during the period of December 2007 through December 2008. He noted that MMAP could make a recommendation on the closeout of the contract.

In response to Assistant County Attorney Terrence Smith's question regarding the use of Teen Court funds, Mr. Simmons noted this item would use Teen Court funds for the Request for Proposal (RFP). Once the contract was initiated, the services would cover all those areas; this was a legislative issue related to Teen Court, noted Mr. Simmons.

Discussion ensued regarding local issues of the State Legislature that pertained to Teen Court and the concern of reduced funding of the ticket surcharge.

Mr. Simmons noted the representative from Becker and Poliakoff (BP) had looked into the surtax on housing that was proposed in order to extend its sunset. He noted the service from BP would be procured for \$6,000.00 and payment would not come from the Teen Court budget unless it specifically impacted that program.

Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Smith noted that he spoke with Assistant County Attorney Summerset regarding an opinion on Teen Court. He also noted during his independent research he found two opinions from the Attorney General regarding the use of Teen Court funding. ACA Smith read into the record the conclusion of the Attorney General's opinion, which was based on a Supreme Court decision.

ACA Smith inquired as to whether the funds would be applied to the operation and administration of Teen Court. He emphasized that the mission of Teen Court was to operate as a court system and teach juveniles the process of the system. ACA Smith said he felt MMAP needed to ensure that Teen Court funding was applied appropriately without crossing the line during involvement with other events. He asked that Trust members take time to discuss those items concerning Teen Court funding.

Assistant County Attorney Smith expressed concern about inappropriate use of those funds because the use of those funds was to procure services of an attorney to perform legislative activities rather than cover administration and operating costs of the Teen Court program.

Further discussion ensued regarding the appropriate use of Teen Court funding and other resources that could be used for the renewal of the Becker and Poliakoff contract.

Regarding Housing Surtax, ACA Smith noted MMAP could not use those funds for this item because their use was limited to construction, financing, and rehabilitation of affordable housing. He added there was a new legislation that could make changes in terms of using funds for administration.

Chairperson Jones recommended allocating money from the Trust account for the renewal contract with Becker and Poliakoff as a safer route if the members agreed.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of this item being to further the program legislatively and to keep it within the framework.

Assistant County Attorney Smith advised the Trust not to use those funds a question existed regarding whether the event met the requirements. He expressed concern due to the fact that MMAP had been audited and regarding the importance of ensuring funding was not jeopardized.

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve an allocation in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000.00 from either the General Revenue Fund or the Trust Fund Account in order to secure MMAP's contract agreement with Becker and Poliakoff for services as a Governmental Representative and to advertise the Request for Proposal (RFP) process at the end of that contract with recommendations. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite, and being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freeman, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent.)

6. Budget

A. Budget Reduction Request (3%) Current Fiscal Year

B. Additional Trust Action Items:

- 1. Score Card Strategy Map**
- 2. MMAP Media Forum**

Chairperson Jones noted that due to a lack of quorum at the April 16, 2008 Trust meeting, Trust members discussed the MMAP Media Forum that would be held at the Joseph Caleb Center (JCC). He added that MMAP had received a response letter from Commissioner Edmonson that the lease amount not-to-exceed \$7,500.00 for JCC would be covered.

Mr. Dixon explained that the \$7,500.00 funding would come from the General Revenue Fund. Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust send a written request for support from Districts 1, 2, and 3 to offset the cost of leasing the JCC auditorium.

In response to Chairperson Jones' inquiry as to whether the media had been sent an invite letter, Mr. Walker noted the letters addressed to Cox Radio, WMBM, Hot 105, and Mr. Baisden would be ready tomorrow.

Chairperson Jones noted the request for support letters regarding the rental of the JCC addressed to the Commissioners should also be prepared and mailed out tomorrow in order to allow for sufficient time to receive funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the MMAP Media Forum that would be held at the JCC on June 7, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Chairperson Jones noted this event would be broadcasted on AM and FM radio stations that had the potential of three million listeners.

Discussion ensued among Trust members regarding the moderators for that event and the topics of discussion which would stay within the framework of the action committee.

Chairperson Jones requested that MMAP staff provide an agenda package of that event to the County Attorney's Office for review.

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve an allocation in an amount not-to-exceed \$7,500.00 from the General Fund Budget for the Community MMAP Media Forum to address socio-economic issues and to be held on June 7, 2008 at the Joseph Caleb Center. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite, and being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent.)

Chairperson Jones recommended that MMAP staff provide the framework of each project to the Commissioners when requesting support in order to ensure clarification of how the media and other aspects of the event connected. He also noted the possibility that the Commissioners may want to include information on other events from their district.

Chairperson Jones requested that Mr. Walker set up a meeting by sending a letter for him to meet with Commissioners Edmonson, Jordan, and Rolle concerning this event.

Mr. Barnes advised Trust members that an Economic Development Committee meeting would be held on June 14, 2008 in the South Dade Government Center and Mr. Barnes would be communicating with the Commissioners regarding this meeting.

Add On Teen Court Youth to Develop Responsible Citizen's Conference

Chairperson Jones reviewed the intent of the Memorandum of Approval (MOA) that proposed a resolution be passed to permit MMAP's Miami Dade Teen Court program to host a Youth to Develop Responsible Citizen's Conference on an annual basis. He noted that the Trust should focus on implementing this first conference and decide whether it was feasible.

In response to Chairperson Jones' question as to whether there would be Teen Court participants involved in this conference, Mr. Dixon indicated the answer was "yes."

Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Smith expressed concern that the MOA crossed the line because the conference would be accessible to the public rather than only participants in the Teen Court program. He pointed out that approximately \$40,000.00 would be used from the Teen Court Budget and suggested limiting the scope of the program to the participants in Teen Court to minimize questions as to whether this included the operation or administration of the Teen Court program. ACA Smith added that those dollars should be restricted to the traditional Teen Court program.

Discussion ensued regarding Trust members' review of the Florida Practice and MMAP's collaborative efforts with the Florida State Teen Court and other entities.

In response to Chairperson Jones' recommendation to submit a letter requesting a legal opinion, Assistant County Attorney Smith said he was prepared to write the legal opinion in time for the next Trust meeting.

Additionally, Chairperson Jones noted that the MMAP staff should research background information on other local Teen Court programs due to the various activities that were based on crime prevention.

Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Smith noted he would provide copies of the Attorney General's two opinions related to Teen Court programs. He also noted due to the urgency to move forward with this event, he would provide a legal opinion by next week, followed by receiving the scope of the program from MMAP staff.

In response to Mr. Simmons' comment that the hotel hosting the event wanted a commitment from MMAP by tomorrow, Chairperson Jones recommended that the hotel representative be advised of MMAP's legal status regarding this matter.

Further discussion ensued regarding limiting the scope of the event and the intent of the program initially being crime prevention.

ACA Smith noted he needed more time to discuss the item with his colleague today in order to assist MMAP staff in developing an acceptable framework of the program for Teen Court.

Mr. Dixon pointed out that MLK Academy was listed as an alternative school and the emphasis was on crime prevention as well as intervention, and all participants appeared to be compatible.

Discussion ensued regarding how to ensure that the participants from the other schools qualified to be in that type of program and how to expand the number of Teen Court program students.

Chairperson Jones recommended that MMAP staff provide a detailed document listing how the students from the other participating schools were involved in the Teen Court program to Assistant County Attorney Smith.

Assistant County Attorney Smith requested that MMAP staff provide the same information that was initially submitted to Assistant County Attorney Summerset requesting a legal opinion.

Chairperson Jones noted that details regarding the students from Carol City Senior High School Law Magnet program who were participants in Teen Court program also should be provided.

Discussion ensued regarding the Trust meeting again in order to approve this item.

In response to Mr. Robinson's question regarding whether MMAP had received a response from the County Manager's Office regarding the 3% reduction, Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP staff had submitted a letter on April 3, 2008, but had only received a verbal approval by the analyst.

Chairperson Jones noted that MMAP staff needed to ensure Trust members reviewed the budget related to the General Revenue Fund in order for the members to be aware of the adjusted changes.

Chairperson Jones advised the Trust that another meeting may have to be called in order to address the one item concerning the Teen Court Youth to Develop Responsible Citizens Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

John T. Jones, Jr., Chairperson
Metro Miami Action Plan Trust