



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

May 21, 2008

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Board of County Commissioners

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OFFICIAL MINUTES
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF MAY 21 2008

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) convened a meeting at the Office of MMAP Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on May 21, 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 Freeman, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

ROLL CALL:

Staff members present were: Mr. John Dixon, MMAP Trust Interim Executive Director; Ms. Marlene Blanco, Ms. Melba Gasque, Mr. William Simmons, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Joann Hicks, Mr. Joey Walker, Mr. Eric Johnson and Mr. Anthony Williams; Mr. Frank Tarrau; and Assistant County Attorney Terrence Smith and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

Chairperson Jones noted that the following changes would be made to today's (5/21) MMAP Trust meeting agenda: Agenda Item IIIA- South Dade Community Forum under the Executive Director's Information Items would be moved to the Trust Action Items and listed as IA7 with the corrected name that should read "MMAP Speaks Media Community Roundtable."

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES

Approval of Previous Minutes

- I. Trust Action Items
 - A. Committee Action Items
 - 1. Housing

A. Teacher's Housing Opportunity Fair

Ms. Hicks provided a brief update and a revised copy of the May 5, 2008 Memorandum of Approval (MOA) that was in today's agenda package. She noted the fiscal impact of the set up cost for this event would be \$2,500.00 rather than \$5,000.00 from the Surtax Dollars that was presented at the Executive Committee meeting.

Ms. Hicks explained that the event was for a School Teacher's Housing Initiative Ceremony and a teacher who closed on the purchase of her home would host the event on her property located in the Little River area on May 31, 2008. The event would require a tent set-up, chairs, and tables, which would cost a total of \$2,500.00, she noted. Ms. Hicks added that Commissioner Edmonson would be present and possibly Commissioner Rolle, since the house was purchased in District 2 and the School Board would participate.

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve the May 21, 2008 Memorandum of Approval in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the Documentary Surtax Dollars for the School Teacher's Housing Initiative Ceremony event to be held on May 31, 2008 with the MMAP Housing Assistant Program. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite and upon being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

2. Education
3. Criminal Justice

A. Lease Space Opa-Locka – Teen Court

Mr. Dixon provided a brief update and noted that MMAP staff received a legal opinion from the County Attorney's Office regarding what events were permitted to receive funding related to Teen Court and MLK Academy. He noted that MMAP's staff looked into getting a larger facility that could house the Teen Court program at a lesser expense. Mr. Dixon advised that space was available at the Opa Locka Neighborhood Center at a 50% decreased rental fees.

Discussion ensued regarding the type and size of the Opa Locka Neighborhood Center facility and its location.

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve Memorandum of Approval to lease the Opa-Locka Neighborhood Service Center for the Teen Court North location reducing the monthly lease amount from \$1,333.34 to \$628.51 from the Teen Court Budget. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite and upon being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

In response to Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Smith's question regarding the preparation of a lease agreement for that facility, Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP staff was in the process of preparing the lease and would provide the draft to ACA Smith.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Opa Locka Neighborhood Center facility and the new lease agreement.

4. Community and Economic Development
5. Legislative

A. Becker and Poliakoff Renewal (Expenditure Approval)

Mr. Simmons noted that at the Executive Committee meeting permission was requested to renew the contract with Becker and Poliakoff, but authorization to expend the monies was not requested. He added that the funding request totaled \$30,000.00.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost, which was the same as last year.

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve Memorandum of Approval authorizing an expenditure of \$30,000.00 for the continuation of the agreement between MMAP and Becker and Poliakoff as a Governmental Representative, as authorized at the April 22, 2008 special meeting as agenda item I.A.5.A. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite and upon being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

Later in the meeting, Chairperson Jones recommended that MMAP's staff be prepared and arrange a meeting with Becker and Poliakoff regarding how to take action before the Dade Delegation meetings began in September 2008.

Ms. Hicks advised the Trust that MMAP's staff had established a subcommittee of MMAP's Housing Action Committee that would get involved in this action.

6. Budget

B. Additional Trust Action Items:

MMAP Speaks Media Community Roundtable

Chairperson Jones noted that the Trust had initially authorized an expenditure of \$7,000.00 for the MMAP Speaks Media Community Roundtable; however, since then, two more radio stations were added. He advised that he met with the vice president of both radio stations WEDR and HOT.105. He added that the cost decreased for the two stations and now totaled \$7,000.00, but he did not know the cost for radio station WMBM.

Chairperson Jones noted that the Memorandum of Approval (MOA) requesting authorization of expenditure not to exceed \$20,000.00 was to cover any unforeseen cost. He commended WEDR for its support in lowering the cost of this event that would be held on June 7, 2008. Chairperson Jones noted that he met with representatives from Children's Trust regarding representatives being present at this forum in order to address any questions that pertained to the Trust.

Chairperson Jones noted that MMAP staff would look at resources from the Housing Department because discussions would be held regarding housing, economic development, and criminal justice. He added that he hoped funds would be released from the Occupational Business Tax Receipts in order to provide a reimbursement.

Mr. Dixon added that in terms of a budget, MMAP's staff discussed resources for those needed funds and MMAP's Finance Director indicated that the Housing Department held several other events throughout the year and could only make a contribution. He noted MMAP needed to look for other resources.

Discussion ensued regarding MMAP's budget and the feasibility that this event's total cost would not reach \$20,000.00 and would be allocated from the General Revenue Funds.

It was moved by Mr. Robinson to approve Memorandum of Approval the expenditure not-to-exceed \$20,000.00 for MMAP to host and broadcast MMAP Speaks Community Media Roundtable radio talk show on June 7, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and upon being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Greicy Lovin, and Dr. Marzell Smith were absent).

At the request of Chairperson Jones, Mr. Walker presented an update on the progress in printing materials for the event. Mr. Walker noted that other media outlets had contacted him requesting to participate in this event.

Chairperson Jones recommended MMAP's staff meet with the other media outlets that were interested in participating.

Discussion ensued regarding the distribution of flyers for the MMAP Speaks Community Media Roundtable involving the PULSE, UPACK, and the Credit Union.

Further discussion ensued regarding the need to receive information from radio station WBBM in order to move forward with the promotion material as well as other competing radio stations.

Mr. Walker advised the Trust that MMAP's staff also worked with Commissioner Martinez's initiative "Dial a Life Program" and a booth would be set up to collect telephones. He added that 100 telephones would be provided for distribution to participants that met the qualifications.

Following discussion, Chairperson Jones recommended MMAP's staff also send an invitation letter to Becker and Poliakoff to attend this event.

II. Trust Information Items

A. Committee Information Items

1. Housing
 - A. **Commission on Ethics HAP Lottery Report**
2. Education
3. Criminal Justice
 - A. **Teen Court – Legal Opinion – Resource Center**
 - B. **Teen Court – Legal Opinion – Youth Conference**

In response to Assistant County Attorney Smith's question regarding a response from the hotel to his comments on the contract, Ms. Green noted the hotel responded to ACA Smith's comments and the changes were documented on the final contract. She added that she would provide ACA Smith with a copy of the contract agreement between the hotel and MMAP that already was in effect.

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4. Community and Economic Development
 - C. **White Paper Regarding Teen Court Resource Center**
 - D. **White Paper Regarding Restorative Justice Program**
 - A. **Business Tax Meeting Summary**

Mr. Dixon provided an update on the process of the business tax meeting summary that went through the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) as well as the Economic Development Human Services Committee (EDHSC). He noted that the BFC invoked a three day rule at the last meeting and the item was moved to June 10, 2008. Although the business tax summary had been passed on to the County commissioners, Commissioner Edmonson notified MMAP that it was appropriate for the business tax summary to go back to EDHSC. Mr. Dixon added that the EDHSC meeting would be on June 11, 2008 and would give the Beacon Council an opportunity to speak.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of moving this item and the fact that due to limited time during the public meeting the Beacon Council did not have an opportunity to speak.

Chairperson Jones recommended that MMAP's staff ensure the community was educated during the June 7, 2008 MMAP Speaks Community Media Roundtable radio talk show and informed about the meeting on June 10, 2008 concerning this item in order to get the community's participation. He added that the BFC should be able to answer any questions that the community had during the radio talk show.

In response to Chairperson Jones' question as to whether MMAP could request to change the meeting date of the BFC, Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Smith advised that the BFC had a standard monthly meeting.

Further discussion ensued regarding the process of moving the foregoing item forward.

In response to ACA Smith's comments regarding the fact that the County Attorney's Office had already provided a legal opinion that this item was an appropriate use of funds, Mr. Dixon added that the opinion was provided along with the plan.

Further discussion ensued regarding the process of this item.

B. South Dade Small Business Forum

5. Legislative

A. Summary of State Legislative Action Housing Surtax

6. Budget

III. Executive Director's Information Items

A. South Dade Community Forum

B. Teen Court Monthly Report

C. Housing Monthly Report

D. Fiscal Management Report

E. Public Information

F. Criminal Justice Report

G. MLK Academy Monthly Report

Mr. Frank Tarrau provided a brief presentation and noted that this would be the last report this year because the school would be closed in June 2008. He emphasized the fact that the School Board was presently discussing the status of MLK Academy for the next four years. The School Board would review a budget today that excluded 12th grade students who failed the FCAT exam, Mr. Tarrau noted. He added that this budget would impact 99% of the schools, causing MLK Academy to be closed for the summer.

Mr. Tarrau expressed concern that the School Board's budget was \$285 million less than last year, and effective next week, the State of Florida required classrooms with over 25 students to hire additional teachers. He added that this law would affect the alternative educational system and the impact would be a loss professional staff. Mr. Tarrau noted the impact on MLK Academy if additional resources were not found.

Chairperson Jones noted that the concern was the number of alternative students in Miami Dade Public Schools (MDPS) and that the State of Florida was trying to identify ways to assist due to

this recent budget issue. He noted that a number of schools would be closed and the outcome of this decision would be known after today's School Board meeting. He added that MLK Academy had requested one of those facilities and he had hoped the cost would be \$1.00 a year with the terms of MLK Academy being responsible for the maintenance of the facility and its utilities.

Mr. Tarrau spoke of the MLK Academy fieldtrip to Miami Dade Community College (MDCC) to educate those students in the different schools' departments and the dual enrollment program for alternative education.

Chairperson Jones spoke in favor of the MDCC's dual enrollment program for alternative education and how it helped MLK Academy to excel. He spoke of the responsibility of the Department of Education to provide assistance. Chairperson Jones added that he also met with the Children's Trust in an attempt to implement a summer work program that would connect to industries in order to help students identify different type of careers. He also added that this summer program could be considered a summer school program.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of violent incidents that took place in schools, which included issues with the parents and the importance of how those situations were handled.

Mr. Tarrau spoke of the various educational events that MLK Academy provided like Youth Speaks against Violence and the Black History Tour, which involved 40 students. He also noted a final meeting was held with the parents and he advised the Trust of the remaining school schedule. Mr. Tarrau pointed out that approximately 70% of MLK Academy students passed the FCAT writing exam with a 3.0 grade.

Chairperson Jones asked that MAPP's staff create a one page fact sheet with the information that Mr. Tarrau reported today that was related to MLK Academy.

Discussion ensued regarding MLK Academy becoming a model school and out of state visitors who came to evaluate the school.

Chairperson Jones advised the Trust members that Dr. Gallon would be leaving the School Board and relocating to New Jersey and on June 18, 2008 a ceremony of appreciation would be held at the School Board meeting. He asked that the Trust members attend the ceremony to express appreciation for his support towards MMAP and the results of the program should be known by the entire community.

Chairperson Jones noted that during the media roundtable radio talk show, an educational component should be a subject matter and suggested that a representative from the School Board be invited.

Mr. Tarrau announced the MLK Academy 2008 Prom would be held on May 22, 2008. He noted other incidents that occurred at the school concerning vandalism and abuse of the facility as well as animal control issues.

Discussion ensued among Trust members regarding a meeting that was held by the NAACP and the discussion concerning how to address school budget issues and a way to eliminate the requirement that students must take the FCAT exam statewide

Mr. Tarrau noted that the list of MLK Academy's accomplishments would be sent by mail and followed by the report from the MDCC dual enrollment program.

Discussion ensued regarding a segment in the MMAP Speaks Media Roundtable on June 7, 2008 that would feature presentations in appreciation of supporters of this program, including Dr. Gallon.

Assistant County Attorney Smith asked to review the lease agreement from Solid Foundation and the letter that needed to be sent to landlord regarding issues with the MLK Academy facility.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for a legal opinion concerning the landlord's responsibility concerning a defective air conditioning system.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that based on the complaints noted by Mr. Tarrau in this report, the landlord had defaulted the lease agreement and there was a provision in the contract indicating payment could be withheld if MLK Academy spent money to repair the facility. He noted that MMAP needed to start making some demands.

Mr. Walker noted that Mr. Dixon had directed the staff to visit MLK Academy and write an article regarding the dual enrollment program. He added that efforts had been made to hold a meeting, but he had to reschedule the meeting. He noted he would ensure that Mr. Robinson was involved and he would report back to the Trust.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

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