

Miami Dade County
Asian American Advisory Board
111 NW. First Street, suite 1034
Miami, FL 33128

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
March, 12, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly, (Chair) Sadrul H. Fasihi; Nazy Given; Josephine Gordy; Dr. Joseph Johnson; Shawn Khosravi; Barnaby Min; Nick Vicera; Manny Wong; and Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Guests: Mr. Victor Swaroop, Tohfa Eminova; Dr. Patty Pattispilaypasat; Harout Samra; Andy Pham; Reinaldo Valdes; Angel Martinez, and Alvin Lewis.

Excused: Melissa F. Braynon; D’Jehanshahi, Reza; Dr. Nasser Eftekhari Shabbir Motorwala; Nidal Hozien; Mehmet Ulutas, Meital Stavinsky

At 6:20 the Chair called the meeting to order, recognizing the lack of quorum, he discussed the meeting with the French Consul General this morning and; thanked various partners for their participation in the Asian Culture Festival. He also recognized the failure to present the Best Performance and Best Exhibit awards at the Asian Culture Festival, The Chair thanked retiring Board member Mr. Khosravi for his services over the years, especially the Scholarship Program and the 10th Year Gala. He asked prospective board candidates to introduce themselves and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Minutes: Mr. Min moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Wong seconded. The board unanimously approved the February, 2013 minutes.

Director’s Report:

Director reported that the Board is a County agency that operates under certain County and State laws. He said, he has noticed communication between some members of the Board on matters pertaining to the board business. He reminded the Board that it is a violation of the Sunshine Law to communicate outside a publicly noticed meeting, including any electronic communications. Members should avoid the temptation to “reply all” in their communication and just respond to and through staff. He reported on Board’s participation in the Chinese and he Asian Culture Festival. In response to the French delegation’s visit last month, the French Consul General visited the Board office to thank the Director for hosting and sharing information about diversity management. Messrs, Tavakoly, Khosravi, and Min attended the meeting in addition to County staff. Finally, Mr. Khosravi said goodbye to the Board after seven very productive years.

Old Business: Mr. Wong reported on the upcoming Community Recognition Dinner. He said it is time to push for the ads and sell tickets. So far only six tables have been sold and six nomination received. We need to sell at least nine more tables.

Scholarship: Ms. Given said not much has happened since the last month’s meeting. She said we need to confirm the venue for the 3rd weekend of May or first weekend in June 2014. Director to request the County to verify the possibility of usage of Chambers.

Membership: Mr. Vicera reported the completion of the recruitment of eight new board member candidates to fill up the eight vacant seats of the Board. The Board Membership Committee recruited the candidates mainly on the basis of the candidates’ interest and willingness to serve the Board. Their curriculum vitae were sent to the Board director and were forwarded to the County Commissioners for

their review and diligence, as only the Commissioners have the responsibility and authority to assess and evaluate the qualifications of the candidates for appointment to the Board.

On the process of recruitment, the Eurasian region gained representation in the Board as candidates from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia accepted the invitation to join and serve the Board. It was also reported that the recruitment doubled the female membership of the Board from four members to eight members. Mr. Vicera also reported the completion of adding the personal profile of the Board members in the Friends of AAAB website, for those who submitted their personal profile.

New Business:

Mr. Vicera raised the motion to form a new Sister City Relations Committee to explore and find ways and means on how to handle and materialize sister city initiatives from Asian member communities, particularly, from the Chinese community – initiative to establish sister city relations between Miami-Dade County and Guangzhou, China. The motion was approved. Mr. Vicera, Mr. Min, Ms. Gordy, Ms. Givens, and Mr. Samra volunteered to join the new committee.

Mr. Vicera also raised the motion to enjoin/request the Board of County Commissioners via a Board resolution or a Board petition or a Board letter whichever is most appropriate, to appoint an Asian American to the Public Health Trust of the Jackson Hospital System. The motion will be discussed in the next April monthly meeting. : The Director is also asked to find out about the Business cards for the members and draft an immigration resolution memo for Board's consideration.

Announcements: The Turkish Festival at Huizinga Park, Ft. Lauderdale, March 16 & 17, 2013.
Community Recognition Dinner, April 26, 2013.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.