

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
April 9, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly, (Chair); Melissa F. Braynon; D’Jehanshahi, Reza; Sadrul H. Fasihi; Nazy Given; Josephine Gordy; Dr. Joseph Johnson; ; Barnaby Min; Mr. Victor Swaroop; Mehmet Ulutas Nick Vicera; Manny Wong; and Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Guests: Tufa Eminova; Dr. Patty Pitayapisut; Pham; Reinaldo Valdes; Steven Weir; Kathleen Cymbaluk;

Excused: Dr. Nasser Eftekhari; Shabbir Motorwala; Nidal Hozien;, Meital Stavinsky

At 6:15 the Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests, asked them to introduce themselves again. He wished Kathleen Cymbaluk a fast recovery and appreciated her attendance despite her injuries.

Minutes: The Chair asked for a motion to approve the March Minutes. Mr. Min moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Wong seconded. The board unanimously approved March, 2013 minutes.

Director’s Report:

Director reiterated as March report 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 said he has requested Mr. Robert Thompson from the Inspector General’s office to arrange a training session for Board members. He also stated that the attempts to carry out a Sister City agenda under the Asian Board must be carefully evaluated because there is an existing county department that handles it
Lastly, he said that I have reminded this before that May is the Asian Heritage Month and Board should set up a committee to handle the lobby display set up but no action has been taken. I am afraid the time will run out, he said. All Community Appreciation Dinner and the Scholarship related matters will be covered by Mr. Wong and Ms. Given in their committee reports.

Old Business: Mr. Wong presented a budget for the dinner, he said that we have received six nominations but we have to sell the tables and ads more aggressively...

Scholarship: Ms. Given said we will finalize the date and venue during this month; Mr. Min is working on finalizing the application that will be posted on the website for the candidates to use Sister City committee is still waiting for the presentation that was postponed due to a schedule conflict. Members will try to find more information before making any recommendations. Meanwhile, Mr. Jiang has gone to China supposedly with an invitation from Commissioner Zapata.

New Business:

Mr. Tavakoly presented his report about organizing the Business Forum, which needs to be rescheduled due to the stadium vote. He said we have requested for an end of the month date in May. The Forum that is being cosponsored by the Asian Board and the Chair's office will educate small businessmen and women how to conduct business with the County, Municipal and other government agencies. On Immigration, Mr. Tavakoly informed the Board that he is working with Mr. Reinaldo Valdes and the CRB to draft a resolution that would include fair immigration reform for all. On Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Mr. Shakir reminded the Board that they should set up a committee to plan the lobby display because the time is short and we still do not have any plans.

Announcements:

Indian American Festival April 2-14 at the City Center 10300 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines.

Bollywood American Festival April 13, at Julius Littman Theater, North Miami Beach.

SONGKRAN Festival, April 14, at the Buddhist Temple in Homestead.

Community Recognition Dinner April 26, at the South Garden Restaurant.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.