

MINUTES BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
October 2, 2013

Chaired by: Mr. D. J. Fabien (Immediate Past Chair)

Board Members Present: D. J. Fabien; Dannie McMillon, Edgar Wright; Jihad Rashid; Dr. Jonas Georges

Excused Absences: Priscilla Dames-Blake; Gerri Lazarre; Rene Gordon; Tracey Bowen-Bell; Mr. Ronald Mumford; Stephen Hunter Johnson

Staff: Retha Boone-Fye

Guests: Rev. Jean-Ricot Gay; Ransom D. Johnson II.

Quorum: No

The meeting was called to order by Mr. D.J. Fabien at 10:20 a.m. Dr. Georges provided the meditation. Members present introduced themselves and since we did not have quorum, Mr. Fabien requested that we move forward and have the Program officer's report. Mr. Rene Diaz introduced himself and gave a presentation on the

Program Officers' Report:

Ms. Boone-Fye reported on the proposed revisions and amendments to the BAAB's ordinance and by-laws as presented by Mr. Rene Diaz. Mr. Diaz indicated that all boards would be in compliance once these changes were amended and approved. These changes would not result in changing the board's purpose for which they were created. One issue is that all boards should hold elections during the month of November as well as change membership status to 26 members as well as one appointee from the Mayor's office. Also, the Clerk of the Board would be responsible for the minutes. Causes for absences would be tightened and dealt with accordingly. Mr. Wright questioned how the board's effectiveness would be impacted with more layers of membership. Mr. Diaz responded that

Next on the agenda was the proposed Black World Symposium scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> at Florida Memorial University. Plans call for inviting several community leaders to be panelists and everything is on target. She then presented copies of the newly printed MDC-CRT brochure and indicated that the website is still under construction. The BAAB membership still needs to be updated—with Mr. Antonio Crawford's name being submitted to fill the vacancy held for Commissioner Heyman. The other vacancy is for Commissioner Moss and she will follow up on that as soon as possible. Next, she updated the board on the status of the Black World Guide which should be delivered to the printer by the first week in November. In the areas of "Community Issues," she updated the board on the upcoming "Stand Your Ground" hearing and environmental issues affecting Coconut Grove and Broadmoor. Mr. Rashid gave some background on the environmental issues that impacts the West Grove area as well.

There were several action items which needed approval such as the Diaspora Arts Coalition ad; BAAB Symposium expenses and BAAB Tee shirts and name tags. Dr. Georges moved for approval and it was seconded by Ms. Bowen-Bell. The item passed.

The final issue she reported on was the MDEAT follow-up on the Black World Guide. That process is in its final stages.

#### Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning Committee: Mr. Wright reported that we have begun to identify three major events to be sponsored for Black History Month and exploring funding sources and sponsors.

Education: Ms. McMillon reported that she was unable to attend the requested speaking engagement at Booker T. Washington. She also mentioned that the School Bond issue is extremely important and that we as a community need to pay closer attention to the schools in the urban core. She stated that the student code of conduct has been revised and resulted in less students being suspended for minor reasons. She is concerned with the number of changes to be implemented at the public schools without community involvement and has been active in making sure that parents know about these changes.

Health Care: Ms. Boone-Fye met with Ms. Hidalgo Diaz and they are still planning a health dialogue at North Shore Hospital.

Housing: No report.

Economic Development: Mr. Hunter Johnson reported

Budget and Finance: Ms. Lazarre provided a written report which was passed out.

Social Media & Marketing: No report

Legislative: Ms. Rene Gordon could not make the meeting due to a problem with her car.

HAERC: Mr. Fabien reported that he is working on future projects for the organization.

Mr. Ransom Johnson who was a guest gave the board an overview of his business which is business planning and commented on the board while requesting assistance for his venture.

New Business: None

Old Business: A reminder that the symposium will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Florida Memorial and all members should make plans to attend.

With all business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

