

MINUTES BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 4, 2014

Chaired by: Stephen Hunter Johnson

Board Members Present: D. J. Fabien; Dannie McMillon, Edgar Wright; Jihad Rashid; Dr. Jonas Georges; Priscilla Dames; Ronald Mumford; Rene Gordon;

Excused Absences: Gerri Lazarre; Tracey Bowen-Bell; Staff: Retha Boone-Fye

Guests: James Jean, Alexandria Davis, Laura Otero—The SEED School of Miami; Frantz Fabien

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnson at 10:26 a.m. Dr. Georges provided the meditation. Members present introduced themselves to our guests and our guests in turn introduced themselves. Since our meeting will be short due to opening ceremonies for Black History Month, Mr. Johnson ceded his time to the representatives of the SEED School of Miami, who gave a background on the boarding school which is currently operational in Washington, D.C. and are opening the school in Miami. They are looking to open in August 2014, with a full campus in the South Dade area serving Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. They indicated that March 21st will be the submission deadline for applicants with April as the lottery time and August 2014 is the targeted opening date. It will be the only school of its type in Miami-Dade County. They provided brochures as well.

Some discussion centered around how our board could provide assistance. There were also questions on how the SEED project could provide economic development through construction since there would have to be redevelopment on the campus. MCM Construction (an Hispanic firm) has been selected as prime contractor and representatives indicated that they would make some effort to address that issue and provide follow up through Ms. Boone-Fye.

Program Officer's Report:

Sunset Review: Ms. Boone-Fye requested that the Board approve the Sunset Review. Mr. Wright moved and it was seconded by Mr. Mumford. The board by unanimous vote approved the Sunset Review.

Black World Symposium: Ms. Boone-Fye agreed that we should move ahead with the next phase by contacting Mr. Laroche to set up a similar event on the South Dade area.

Gun Violence Initiative: Mr. Jorge Mursuli is requesting support from the BAAB on this issue. Ms. Boone-Fye has been in contact with him and will provide greater details at the next meeting.

BAAB Membership: We still have two vacancies and names have been submitted.

Community Issues: There are still environmental issues in the North Glades area as well as Coconut Grove. She also reported on the two Disparity Studies being conducted by Miami-Dade County as well as Dade County Public Schools.

Budget Issues: Ms. Boone-Fye also requested board approval to expend Trust Funds for Black History related events/expenditures. The board approved the request.

Ms. Lazarre requested that we be mindful of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights movement and participate in any local events. Ms. Boone-Fye will follow up.

Meeting with State Attorney's Office: the meeting has been rescheduled for February 21st. a report will be given after the meeting.

(more)

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage: Mr. Wright passed out the calendar of events for Black History Month 2014.

Education: Ms. McMillon reported that she attended a community meeting at Miami Northwestern regarding violence among youth. She also gave a detailed report on Charter Schools and talked about the financial instability of Black charter schools and the fact that anyone wishing to operate one needs to know the lay of the land before they get into it. Dr. Jonas said that we as a group should have their business in order to achieve success. Mrs. McMillon agreed and added that they need attorneys, accountants, grant writers, etc. Ms. Dames recommended that we do a symposium on charter schools, moved by Ms. Dames, seconded by Dr. Jonas--it was voted on and approved.

Health Care: No Report. We are still waiting for an appointee

Housing: Mr. Mumford stated that Jesus People Ministries is building housing for young adults ageing out of foster care. Ms. Gordon added that the second phase is for the elderly.

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life! :Ms. Dames reported on a the symposium and parenting conference taking place on April 5th. She indicated that this is not just a Black conference it is a Parent conference with strong sponsorships, and wants the board to participate. Mr. Johnson wanted to review the different tracks. Mr. Frantz Fabien, a student commented that he thinks this is a great idea and wants to be involved. Dr. Jonas moved and it was seconded by Mr. Wright that the BAAB formally sponsor the event. It was approved and Ms. Dames will send a formal request. She also indicated that participants will be eligible for Master Points as well as CEUs.

Economic Development: No report

Social Media & Marketing: No report

Legislative Affairs: Ms. Gordon reported that we will be meeting with the State Attorney's office this month. A detailed report will follow.

HAERC: Mr. Fabien reported that he went to Haiti with Calvin Hughes and that there is a lot going on with construction, etc., overwhelming the amount of work. Mr. Johnson asked if we could become involved economically. Mr. Fabien reported that there are a lot of economic opportunities available. Dr. Jonas commented that he wanted to involve the BAAB in the denationalization of Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Ms. Dames said we should write an article to the Miami Herald...Dr. Jonas will write the letter.

Old business: We still need to appear in front of the School Board regarding minority student access to second languages.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

