

Minutes

Black Affairs Advisory Board

June 11, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

10th Floor Conference Room

Quorum: Yes

Meeting opened at 10:25 a.m. Mr. Mumford gave the meditation. The chair announced that at this time we did not have quorum so can begin updates. Ms. Boone-Fye said the minutes for May were not available but would be at the July meeting.

Chair's report:

Mr. Johnson deferred the update on the Black World Symposium scheduled for South Dade. He would like to have it scheduled as quickly as possible, at the South Dade Government Center. He also informed those in attendance that he had a positive follow up meeting with Mr. Ramiro Ortiz, President of HistoryMiami regarding the May 7th Village Dialogue on diversity. Mr. Ortiz is pursuing a plan to develop a program aimed at providing low cost loans to African American and Hispanic business partners who co-team on projects. He will present the idea to the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. The other issue is the idea of a movement aimed at increasing the amount of funding spent in the African American community by County funded programs such as the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Beacon Council to name two. He also mentioned that he went to South Beach during Urban Beach Weekend. He went to several venues including the Cleveland, Wet Willies and Johnny Rocket's and discovered that many of these venues were extremely obvious in their decision to not cater to the mostly African American clientele. He would like to send a letter to The Miami Herald editorial page. He will draft the letter; send to Ms. Boone-Fye for the board to forward to the board for approval. Mr. Fabien talked about the Roots n Culture Festival, both in Coconut Grove and Little Haiti and said that we should become more vocal in offering these venues as an option for visitors during that weekend. During this time, several board members entered and we obtained quorum. Mr. Mumford gave a scenario on how difficult it is becoming to even gain access to the beach based on his experience in providing transportation to the venue. Mr. Rashid added that this event represents an economic boost to Miami-Dade County and he sees an opportunity to bring a positive spin to the weekend.

Rob Collins from HOPE, Inc. an organization that fights housing discrimination introduced himself and gave an update. He announced that all their services were free since they receive government funding. These services include education and outreach; counseling and filing lawsuits or referrals. They recently began a lawsuit against several locations based on housing discrimination that made the news. He wants to work with our Board. He will be working with Mr. Mumford on a workshop/ Village Dialogue. They are also seeking part time investigators.

(More)

Community Issues:

Mr. Rashid gave an update on Old Smoky where the problems originated the parks are not mentioned. That is ongoing. Good success with the trolley station thus far. He is negotiating the readaption of the building for economic development. He's working on a public private buy out and they are in the middle of negotiating and will let us know the outcome. There were some comments on the gentrification of the West Grove area and how speculators are edging into the area.

Ms. Boone-Fye made the announcement that the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights observance in Miami is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2nd at FIU's North Campus. Mr. Rashid is on the program. And there are a limited number of invites and the board is on the list. She will be sending out details in the near future.

The School Bond Construction issue is ongoing and there is some concern with the vetting of companies working on construction related projects affiliated with schools such as Norland Senior High.

Membership: we have a new appointee—Mr. Francois Adriene. We are waiting for the background check to be completed before he is able to join the board physically. We also have Mr. Cazeau as Commissioner Monestime's appointee.

Action Items: Approval for expenditures for the May 7th Village Dialogue programs as well as those affiliated with the Pillar Awards. The board gave approval to spend up to \$5,000 for the Marriott Hotel; six Young Pillars (\$3,500) awards (\$500) as well as several small expenditures such as printing for the Pillars. Ms. Boone-Fye then gave the names of the Community Pillars and the Young Pillars. She is also requesting donations for the Silent Auction aspect of the event.

Mr. Mumford moved that the board give Ms. Boone-Fye the authority to expend the funds for the costs associated with our events. Mr. Rashid seconded it and all members present voted in favor of this motion.

Ms. Boone-Fye also requested that members fill out the Financial Disclosures at today's meeting. She will scan them and keep them in an electronic file.

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning: In Mr. Wright's absence, Ms. Boone-Fye gave an update on the Pillars Awards which will be held June 21, 2014 at the Coconut Grove Marriott.

Education: No report

Health Care: Ms. Bowen-Bell announced that she was part of an event that took place at the Wolfson campus on bullying, being a positive role model and domestic violence. As a representative of the

BAAB, the board was included as a sponsor. She submitted documentation of the event to Ms. Boone-Fye. It was funded by a suicide prevention grant and hopefully another event is planned for September. She will also be meeting with Ms. Saliah Nelson regarding the Urgent Inc. project this afternoon.

Housing: Mr. Mumford will be working with Mr. Collins to schedule a Village Dialogue on housing discrimination and home ownership. Mr. Johnson made some comments on the city of Miami Gardens and how they are experiencing some growing pains in the housing area. Mr. Rashid and Ms. Gordon reiterated that rising housing costs plagues most of those in the low to moderate income level and they are unaware of programs that could help. There was also some discussion on how Targeted Urban Areas (TUAs) should be positioned and profiled.

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life: No report.

Economic Development: Mr. Rashid reported earlier during presentation.

Budget & Finance: (See Program Officer's Report)

Social Media & Marketing:

Legislative Affairs: Ms. Gordon reported that she would give a concise report on the bills that passed during this past legislative session at our next meeting.

HAERC Update (501c3) Mr. Fabien reported that he is working on a hurricane preparedness program and will give an update at the next meeting on his progress.

With all business being covered, the chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was provided and the meeting ended at 12:10 p.m.