

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes for February 7, 2007

9:30 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Center

Board Members present: D.J. Fabien; Dannie McMillon; Gerri Lazarre, Ms. Marie-Jose Ledan

Excused Absences: Mr. Brian Person, Priscilla B. Dames

Unexcused absences: Ms. Suzan McDowell; Mr. Juvais Harrington; Ms Emma Sumpter.

Staff: Ms. Retha Boone, Program Officer

Guests: Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert and Mr. Ronald Mumford

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by the Interim Chair, Mr. D. J. Fabien. Following a silent meditation, Mr. Fabien asked that the agenda be approved. Ms. Boone informed the members present that she had contacted the other BAAB members and that since a quorum was not present, the minutes were tabled until a quorum was present.

Introductions of Guest(s): Ms. Boone requested that the guests introduce themselves, which was done. Both of the guests are interested in being appointed to the BAAB.

Program Officers' Report:

Board Membership Status and Appointments:

Ms. Boone gave an update on the Board membership and introduced Mr. Mumford and Mrs. Nelson-Goedert as potential BAAB members. She also presented the resumes of Ronald Mumford; Carolyn Nelson-Goedert; Mack L. Samuel and Edgar Wright. The other potential candidate is Mr. Joseph Obadyi, who will send his resume this week.

Ms. Dames is excused since she is representing the BAAB at the AIDS March being held in Liberty City. Dr. Sands submitted his resignation in December. Mr. Fabien is listed as the Interim Chair pending a formal election. As Vice Chair, he is taking the place of Dr. Sands. One of the new recommendations is that an alternate be appointed by each member. The new meeting time is now set for 10 a.m. Ms. Boone gave an update and stated that membership is being tightened and that the minutes will be put on the website in the near future.

There are six vacancies on the Board and two potential members are in attendance today. Modifications on the By-Laws will also be made including the appointment of an alternate to make sure we have enough members to take care of our tasks.

Ms. Boone also informed members that she will be requesting funding from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of \$3-\$5k. She also said that as chair, Mr. Fabien would like to concentrate on at least two to three items instead of scattering our resources. These items should be identified by the BAAB so that we can be more effective. Ms. Boone gave an update on the other prospective members who sent in an application.

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Program Officers' Report (con'td)

The two prospective members gave an overview of why they would like to join the BAAB and also said they are willing to dedicate the time and effort necessary to serve. Mr. Fabien reminded the two prospective members that they must be willing to attend the meetings each month. Mr. Joseph Obadeyi has also expressed an interest in joining the BAAB. Ms. Boone also will be reviewing the reappointment of certain members and sending letters to the Commissioners to make new appointments.

Ms. Boone informed members that all County Boards are in the process of undergoing restructuring and that she will make the Board aware of those changes when they occur. Some of the changes include determining if the boards are viable and a change in the Sunset Review process.

Ms. Boone reported that interviews were being held for the new Community Relations Assistant and that whoever is chosen would be on board shortly.

Mr. Fabien suggested that the notebooks given at the Retreat be brought to the meeting and be left at the office each month. He also suggested that a shelf be created within the Office of Community Relations so any member can have access to their information.

Mr. Oscar Braynon will be providing assistance in placing the minutes on the BAAB website.

Community Task Force Matrix.

Ms. Boone informed new and old members that the BAAB Matrix would be used to determine what issues have been accomplished/status of our projects. Ms. Boone also informed members that a young lady named Vanessa Wade had contacted the Office requesting assistance because she is incarcerated at Coleman Correction Institute and requested our assistance to help her receive medical assistance. After contacting the Warden's Office, we should hear something from them.

We are looking at doing a Village Dialogue the end of March on Violence in conjunction with the City of Miami Gardens and with the Youth Council. A DJ from WEDR is supposed to assist us with this project. The funds that we are requesting from the BCC would be used to fund our Village Dialogues and other community based projects.

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School Truancy Hotline:

At this point, we need to request funds for the Diversion Center. We will be doing a Memorandum of Understanding between the BAAB, Galata, Inc., the Arbour Group for a Pilot Program. Ms. Dames has already visited the site and was very pleased with the site.

GOB Update:

Ms. Person has not made us aware of the status of the GOB as it relates to the Black Community.

Black Profile:

Ms. Boone has a meeting with Dr. Boswell in early March to complete this task. At this point, Dr. Boswell has submitted a document that needs to be reviewed and finalized. We anticipate this project being completed no later than May 2007.

Toy Guns:

This initiative is still on the table. Tiandra Sullivan, an aide to Commissioner Jordan is working with us on this project. Ms. Boone stated that she is a bit concerned over the amount of time that has been spent on this project without some resolution, especially in view of the increased gun related violence happening in our area.

Old Business:

Ms. Boone promised to have some information on tee shirts or wind breakers for BAAB members at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Ms. McMillon reported that we are looking at holding two Village Dialogues on Youth Violence and one on Real Parents--Real Issues in conjunction with the City of Miami Gardens this time. The last event covered Title I and ESE. We are looking at a speaker for these events. She also reported that the School Code of Conduct is changing and we must be aware of what is happening in our schools. She announced that she attended the Superintendent's Town Hall Meeting and she would be attending another meeting this evening. There is also a concern that the public hearings will not be televised--or at Committee meetings--this is a concern regarding our right to speak and be heard at public School Board meetings.

Black Heritage Planning Committee:

The BHPC is currently holding a number of activities surrounding Black History Month. A successful kick-off in conjunction with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida was held February 1st. Mr. Fabien shared with the members the Black History Month Calendar of Events. Ms. Boone also announced that the Valentine's Cruise would in all likelihood be postponed. Mr. Fabien suggested that we ask for funding and Ms. Boone reiterated that the BAAB needs these funds to hold events instead of constantly y doing g fundraising. Last year's fundraiser with the City of Riviera Beach Jazz Festival is scheduled for April 13-15 and the BHPC is participating again since fundraising was successful last year.

Judicial/Civil Rights:

Mr. Mumford announced that the "Watch Group" will be holding a meeting aimed at reducing the high incidence of violence in the Black Community.

Health Care:

Ms. Ledan requested that we do the Village Dialogue on Health on the south end of the County in April or May to give residents information on "Preserving Your Assets."

Ms. Ledan is aiming for doing an event in March in relation to Breast Cancer Awareness month. She also reported that she will be attending the Aventura Hospital meeting held later this month.. The YWCA is still doing free mammograms; also free Pap Smears are being done at a clinic located at 681 NE 125th Street. This info needs to go out to the general public

Housing: No report.

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life

Ms. Dames will give a report on her March for AIDS in the Black Community at our next meeting. She is also working on the Diversion Center. Ms. Dames and Ms. Lazarre will be working on a grant application for funding for the Diversion Center and advertising of the School Truancy Hotline.

Budget & Finance:

She met with Ms. Boone on January 16th. We're still waiting on the Finance Department to give us an update on the budget. Ms. Lazarre will be working on the budget and Ms. Boone on requesting funding for the BAAB's programs.

Economic Development: no report

New Business: None

Announcements:

Ms. Goedert announced that the National Council of Black Women will be holding an event on Feb. 17th. A flyer will be forwarded to members. With all business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Recorded by: Retha S. Boone, Program Officer

