

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for January 9, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Stephen P. Clark Center

Board Members present: D.J. Fabien; Priscilla B. Dames; Carolyn Nelson-Goedert; ; Gerri Lazarre; Edgar Wright and Ketlyne Alexis

Excused Absences: Dannie McMillon and Brian Person

Unexcused absences: Marie-Jose Ledan

Staff: Ms. Retha Boone, Program Officer;

Guests: Mr. Terry Parker (OSBM) Mr. Ronald Mumford

The meeting was called to order at 10: 15 a.m. by Mr. D. J. Fabien. Ms. Boone asked for approval of the agenda, which was done without additions/deletions. All members and guests introduced themselves. A short meditation was given by Ms. Boone.

Program Officers' Report:

Ms. Boone reported that Mr. Robert Boseman, Jr., our Anti-Violence Ambassador began taking classes at Miami-Dade College this month and would not be in attendance since he is in classes. She then asked for additions/deletions to the agenda.

The Sunset Review memorandum was signed by Mr. Fabien and submitted on time. A brief explanation on the Sunset Review was given for the benefit of new members. She also reported that a copy of the Mason's Manual was given to Ms. Nelson-Goedert so that the BAAB's Bylaws can be amended in order to make it easier to meet our quorum requirements among other considerations.

Mr. Terry Parker was then introduced, who gave a very thorough, detailed overview of the benefits of the BAAB establishing a 501c3 non-profit entity. He suggested that a 501c3 would enable the Board to be better equipped to pursue grants, etc. Several questions surfaced in regards to the make up of the non-profit entity/foundation and how it would be set up, staffed or the board's composition.

Ms. Boone gave an update on the Violence Intervention Project (VIP) and requested the Board's approval to pursue funding for the Respect Life! initiative, including the School Truancy Hotline. She also suggested that the BAAB investigate the possibility of conducting a Pilot Program with the City of Miami Gardens for a School Truancy Initiative. Ms. Dames commented that we should act on this early to avoid inertia on these type projects.

Ms. Boone spoke briefly about the meeting she and Mr. Fabien had with Dr. Steve Gallon at the Miami-Dade Public Schools Alternative Education office and the possibility of conducting a "**Village Summit**" to help the school system learn more about the programs currently operating in the community to combat truancy. Again Mr. Dames reiterated that we should act on this quickly. She mentioned a Village Dialogue on truancy event that was scheduled for December which was cancelled. Ms. Dames also mentioned a Town Hall meeting which was held that she and Ms. Boone attended, which would help us hold our summit. A tentative March or April 2008 date for the Village Summit was discussed.

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Black Profile and Black World Guide:

Ms. Boone announced that the Black World Guide is ready and that a reception is being planned to announce it to the general community. A date of January 23rd was recommended pending confirmation of a location.

The Black Profile has also been published and will be introduced to the Board of County Commissioners prior to being released to the general public. A limited amount (50) has been printed and at some point it will be placed on our website.

Board Membership Status and Appointments:

We have a new member appointed by Commissioner Gimenez, Rev. Gregory Gay. We currently have three vacancies as a result and Ms. Boone stated that she would be working on Mr. Mumford's appointment.

Ms. Boone then requested that A.S.E. forms be filled out for survey purposes. A review of the Dr. MLK event and Black History Month was given for the purpose of having members place events on their calendars.

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning, Mr. Didier Fabien deferred to Ms. Boone who announced that the Committee is working on the Black History program and invited the board to the Jan. 18th celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At this point, Mr. Kionne McGhee joined the meeting and gave a brief overview of what he does with the State Attorney's office—particularly a project that has a cadre of people who would be willing to do community service by removing debris in any designated area. He also spoke about working with religious institutions on assisting young Black men enter the educational arena. He also talked about a program with Commander Whitehead's karate class that is doing well in working with youth.

Budget & Finance, Ms. Gerri Lazzarre reported that she is still working with Ms. Boone on a budget for the BAAB.

Ms. Nelson-Goedert gave an update on the quote she has received for the Respect Life! Bracelets. The possibility of getting them printed is being explored.

Education – No report

Health Care – No report

Housing—Need an appointee

Economic Development: Need appointee

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Announcements/Old & New Business

Mr. Wright requested that Ms. Boone find out if the Independent Review Panel was still seeking members.

Ms. Boone gave an overview of the Board Retreat held at The Ranch in December. Several projects were mentioned including updating the Strategic Plan; BAAB Update to keep Commissioners and staff updated on our activities;

Active Strategy Enterprise (ASE) Ms. Boone requested that members and visitors fill out the forms for reporting purposes.

With all business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

