

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
10:00 a.m.
6th Floor Conference Room

April 2, 2008 Meeting

Board Members Present: Mr. D. J. Fabien, Ms. Priscilla Dames; Ms. Ketlyne Alexis; Ms. Gerri Lazzarre; Ms. Marie-Jose Ledan; Mr. Brian Person; Ms. Dannie McMillon; Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert; Rev. Gregory Gay.

Excused Absences: Mr. Edgar Wright

Unexcused Absence(s): None

Staff: Retha S. Boone, Mr. Oscar Braynon

Guests: Mr. Ronald Mumford

Meeting Summary

- I. Meeting began at 10:15 a.m. Ms. Dannie McMillon offered a reflection of Dr. King's legacy of peace by asking members to try to keep young people aware of Dr. King's principles.
- II. Approval of Agenda: The Program Officer called for approval of the agenda, which was done. Next, the chairperson called for a motion to approve the agenda, which was passed by unanimous consent.

Program Officers' Report

- A. Update on Board of Commissioner's meetings with individual appointees. Ms. Boone requested that members give a synopsis of their meetings with their various Commissioners and their impressions. Ms. McMillon, Ms. Nelson-Goedert (who relayed Commissioner Heyman's insistence that the BAAB "Step up to the plate" by being more proactive and a follow-up meeting with her staff regarding the prevalence of gangs at North Miami Beach High); Mr. Mumford indicated that he has a meeting with Commissioner Souto this coming Monday. Ms. Marie-Jose Ledan also gave an update on her meeting with Commissioner Rolle. Ms. Ledan has agreed to continue her service with the BAAB. Ms. Dames also updated the BAAB members on her meeting with Commissioner Edmonson. Ms. Dames will be working with the Commissioner on a Youth Gang Violence initiative. Rev. Gay volunteered to work with Ms. Dames on this initiative. Ms. Boone reiterated the importance of these meetings in keeping Commissioners abreast of our activities as well as hearing about the activities of the other boards. Other meetings are pending.

Action Items:

Ms. Dames will contact Commissioner Edmonson's office to coordinate this effort. Rev. Gay will provide support.

- B. Establishment of a 501c3: The Board is still attempting to establish this entity. Ms. Lazzarre has agreed to help and Ms. Boone will be facilitating the meeting with Ms. Lazzarre and Mr. Shakir.
- C. Village Dialogues will be continuing within each Commissioner District. The suggestion was made to hold the Dialogues in conjunction with each Commissioner instead of just doing it on our own.

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- D. NAACP Town Hall meeting: The meeting was held at New Birth Baptist Church and several members were in attendance as well as Mayor Alvarez. Ms. McMillon made additional comments regarding issues that were covered at the meeting such as a situation with employees in the Corrections Department, etc.
- E. Joint Alumni Coalition meeting: Voter Registration at some 26 schools where students were eligible to register to vote was not conducted. Ms. Boone shared a letter with members of the schools that were impacted. The vast majority of the schools were predominantly African American and the Joint Coalition will be following up on this issue. Ms. Lazarre mentioned that she receives phone calls from her daughter's schools, which is a great way to keep in touch with the school Ms. Dames suggested that we develop a contact person and relationship for each of the schools.

Action Items:

Ms. McMillon will keep the BAAB updated on this issue. School Board member Tee Holloway will be working with the Coalition on this issue as well. Mr. Person and Ms. McMillon will be working on making sure the student leaders at each **school become involved in this process.** **Mr. Person will be handling Norland and Jackson High; Ms. Dames will handle Edison; Ms. Lazarre will be handling North Miami Beach; Ms. Nelson-Goedert will be handling Central and Carol City; Ms. Ledan will be handling North Miami, Ms. Alexis will be handling Homestead and Ms. McMillon is assigned to Northwestern as well as being the point person.**

- F. Ms. Nelson-Goedert was given a copy of the Mason's Manual and the by-laws. She is working on the document and will have it done by the next meeting.
- G. Absences and Vacancies: Mr. Mumford will be meeting with Commissioner Souto. Ms. Boone requested resumes since we have two vacancies.
- H. Economic Inclusion Summit: As a result of the Black Profile and two other documents, Commissioners Edmonson, Jordan and Moss requested an economic forum as a result. The County Manager wants a "Blueprint for Inclusion," in the economic development for Miami-Dade County. The tentative date is May 30th. Mr. Braynon gave an overview of the forum and indicated that BAAB members should play an integral part in the planning and implementation—particularly in the focus groups portion. Ms. McMillon requested an update on the name tags. Ms. Boone said the magnetized name tags would be ready or ordered prior to the next meeting as well as the business cards.
- I. Website Update: Mr. Braynon reported that he is in the process of updating all OCA websites, including that of the BAAB. He will be adding information, but no photos of each member.
- J. Metrorail North Corridor: Commissioner Rolle indicated that the Orange Line is his priority and the BAAB will be kept updated on this issue.
- K. Healthy Teen Relationships Grant: The BAAB is working with the CRB and the Office of Strategic Management on a grant to be funded by the Robert Woods Foundation.
- L. Riviera Beach Fundraiser: is this weekend and if any members are interested, please see Ms. Boone.

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- M. Pillars Awards will be held September 12, 2008 and nominations are being solicited.
- N. Clerical Assistance: Ms. Boone requested that the Board allocate around \$1,000 to continue to utilize a temporary employee, Ms. Maria Plaza. She will only be here for the rest of the month. A motion was made by Ms. Dames, seconded by Ms. Alexis and approved.

Action Items:

Ms. Boone will have an updated report on the name tags, business cards and the website at the next meeting

Committee Reports

Black Heritage Planning Committee: Mr. Fabien indicated that the BHPC is having a fundraiser at the Riviera Beach Music Festival and urged members to support it.

Education: Ms. McMillon informed the BAAB that budget cuts will definitely impact the school district and that some schools will be restructured district wide. There is also talk of reducing the number of regions from six to three and that we should pay close attention to what is going on with the school district.

Health Care: Ms. Alexis and Ms. Ledan are still working on holding the Village Dialogue in the South Dade area at Galata Homestead for April 19. Ms. Boone is working on making sure the booklet; "Preserving and Protecting Your Assets" will be ready for the event.

Housing: At this point we do not have a Committee Chair for housing.

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life!: A Youth Summit is being planned for Saturday, May 3. A location and time will be discussed. Ms. Dames is also working on a Youth/Gang Summit as a result of her meeting with Commissioner Edmonson. She also reported that she, Ms. Ledan and Ms. McMillon attended an event where Ms. Lazarre was part of the board (?). She also attended the Edison Town Hall meeting and has been in contact with Sweet Vine as part of her outreach activities. She urged all Board members to support each other's events.

Economic Development/Budget & Finance: Ms. Lazarre will be working with Mr. Shakir on establishing a 501c3 for the Board. Ms. Boone is still training on the FAMIS system to provide access to the financial system. She will be working with Mr. Braynon as part of the Economic Development Summit. Ms. Boone will be printing out a report and submitting it to Ms. Lazarre for the next meeting.

Action Items:

Ms. Boone will provide Ms. Lazarre with a print out of the current balance. Rev. Gay will follow through on the situation at the South Miami Clinic.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Announcements/Discussion/Adjournment: Ms. Dames announced that Ms. Nelson-Goedert might soon be a member of the newly created Commission for Women for the City of Miami Gardens. Ms. McMillon is working on an affordable housing with the League of Women Voters. She will keep us informed on the update. On April 19th, Ms. McMillon invited the members to an event for J.U.G.S. honoring several community leaders.

With all business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

