

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

November 5, 2008 Meeting

10:00 a.m.

6th Floor Conference Room

Board Members Present: Dannie McMillon; Rev. Gregory Gay; Marie-Jose Ledan; D. J. Fabien; Edgar Wright.

Staff: Retha Boone

Guest: Tracy Bowen

Meeting Summary

- I. Meeting was opened by the chair, Mr. Fabien at 10:35 a.m. Members present were requested to review the proposed agenda. Following the agenda approval, Ms. Dannie McMillan offered a brief meditation, making special mention of the election yesterday of President Elect Barack Obama.

- II. Mr. Fabien gave an update of his activities in reference to the Haitian American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC), which has already shipped two forty-foot containers of relief aid to Haiti and is still in the process of gathering supplies. He has been contacted by a group composed of schoolchildren from kindergarten through 6th grade who want to donate shoes through their "Hike for Ike" relief efforts, and he will give further updates in the future. Rev. Gay commented that he gathered supplies and went to Notre Dame Cathedral and the efforts were not well coordinated. Mr. Fabien commented that the HAERC is establishing credibility and he is intent on maintaining it. Ms. McMillon added that Superintendent Carvalho sent out a memorandum indicating that schools would be collecting aid as well. Mr. Edgar Wright committed to working with Mr. Fabien on getting publicity for the Haiti relief effort in the South Florida Times.

Program Officers' Report

BAAB By-Laws/Membership/Absences/ Vacancies: Ms. Boone reported that she has submitted Mr. Mumford and Ms. Tracy Bowen's names for appointment, but has not received a response as of yet. Ms. Boone asked for suggestions for members to be appointed from members.

Ms. Boone is still working with Ms. Lazarre who sent in a preliminary report on the establishment of a 501c3 non profit organizations so that the board can tap into additional funding opportunities. Ms. Tracy Bowen intends to work with Ms. Lazarre on this process.

Village Dialogues: We are still pending a date for the Re-Entry and Restoration Dialogue with Ms. Renita Holmes. She will be contacted to set that date. We are looking to hold at least four (4) Village Dialogues for 2009: Education, Health, and Anti-Violence should be among them. The chair of the Melissa Institute was contacted and we would like to partner with them. Rev. Gay commented that his office has a Domestic Violence initiative that we should partner with at some time and we should also add jobs to our list of goals and objectives for 2009.

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An update was also given on Early Voting, which was provided support by the Goodwill Ambassadors. From all reports/indications, all went smoothly.

Action Item 1: Plan for a minimum of four (4) Village Dialogues for 2009. A suggestion has been made to see if recurring funding could be secured in much the same way as the bed tax and other revenue generated on an on-going basis could be secured to provide training. Another aspect of this initiative should be the establishment of job training program such as the one started by Rev. Gay under the “Wounded Warriors,” model which we need to find a dedicated source of funding to implement such as attaching a \$1.00 fee to traffic or court costs.

Action Item 2: Have BAAB members submit resumes to fill vacancies on the board.

Action Item 3: Work with Oscar Braynon on newsletter for BAAB for 2008 events.

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning: Mr. Fabien reported that the Pillars Award went very well and the group is in the process of closing out the dinner and preparing to award scholarship funds to the four Young Pillars. Ms. Boone requested that members mark their calendars for the various January and February events marking Dr. Martin Luther King and Black History Month activities will be held.

Education: Ms. McMillon reported that in the future she plans to submit a written report. She attended an education conference titled the National Coalition of Title I Parents and gave an update on the efforts of the group which encourages parents to pursue rights for children who are entitled to these funds. She also commented on the four “F” schools which have been designated as facing possible closure: Miami Edison, Miami Central, Holmes and Liberty Elementary. There was a long discussion on what methods we should use to draw attention to get the word out on the status of education in our community. Ms. McMillon will give a further update at the January meeting.

Health Care: Ms. Ledan and Ms. Alexis will schedule a Health Dialogue for 2009.

Housing: No report

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life: No Report

Economic Development: Ms. Lazarre submitted a written report and is working on the creation of the 501c3 for the “Friends of the BAAB”.

Budget & Finance: (Ms. Lazarre)

Old Business: None

Adjournment: With all business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

