

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

June 4, 2008 Meeting

Board Members Present: Mr. D.J. Fabien; Ms. Marie-Jose Ledan; Mr. Brian Person;
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert; Ms. Dannie McMillon; Mr. Edgar Wright
Excused Absences: Ms. Gerri Lazarre ; Ms. Priscilla Dames; Rev. Gregory Gay
Unexcused Absence(s): None

Meeting Summary

- I. Meeting was opened by the chair, Mr. Fabien at 10:20 a.m. Mr. Oscar Braynon, was called upon first to make a presentation on the Board's website, due to his having to attend another meeting. One suggestion concerned registering the BAAB as a "dot.org" so that the web presence would be easier to find. He gave a briefing on how to navigate the webpages. He will also be adding other community resources/organizations to our site as well as other improvements.

Next, the chairperson called for a motion to approve the agenda, which was passed by unanimous consent.

Program Officers' Report

Ms. Boone reported that the Black World Guide is in the process of being reprinted and that copies would be available at the next meeting. Also, the updating process will begin for the 2009 edition.

BAAB By-Laws/Membership/Absences/ Vacancies: Mr. Mumford has not been officially appointed as of yet, Ms. Boone is still trying to get that done through Commissioner Souto. Additional appointments are needed to bring the board up to full status (13) members.

Action Item: Contact Commissioner Souto's office to ascertain the status of Mr. Mumford's appointment. Mr. Mumford has already met with the Commissioner.

Ms. Boone reported that she and Ms. Lazarre met with Commissioner Sosa's aide and that the Commissioner has a very interesting project, dealing with the Corrections Department and rehabilitation, literacy and educational services for offenders and ex-offenders.

Action Item: Ms. Boone will continue to be in contact with Commissioner Sosa's Chief of Staff, Roly Marante regarding this initiative.

Regarding the 501c3 establishment, Ms. Boone received an update from Mr. Shakir from the Asian Affairs Advisory Board. If we can get an attorney to do it pro bono, it should only run an estimated \$700-\$800.

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Village Dialogues Update: According to our minutes, Mr. Person, Mr. Wright and Mr. Boseman should be planning the next Village Dialogue tentatively set for July 26th. Mr. Boseman has started classes for the summer and could not attend the meeting, but will be working with us on this project.

Another **Village Dialogue on Health** is scheduled for the 21st of July, however Ms. Boone will follow up to see if that date is feasible. She is also working on a wrap up of all the Village dialogues so that they can be placed on the website. The anticipated date for that is August 2008.

Mr. Fabien gave a summary of the Emergency Summit on Haiti which was convened by the Community Relations Board. Briefly, the General Counsel of Haiti attended and suggested that a permanent committee be established in order to address long-term issues regarding Haiti. As a result, the Haitian American Emergency Resource Committee was discussed and Mr. Fabien is the chair; and Yvans Morriseau is the co-chair. A website is being developed as well. The purpose of the HAERC is to identify and provide collaborative opportunities for groups/organizations that provide aid to Haiti. Several issues are being examined, including immigration, health, food and credibility. There is a concern that donations are not being delivered to the people who actually need them. Part of the committee will go to Haiti to make sure the donations are being properly handled. They will be photographed and documented.

Ms. Boone also reported that the effort sponsored by Commissioners Jordan and Edmonson netted a large donation from Miami-Dade County employees. That donation will be forwarded as well. The funds collected as a result of the collaboration between Galata, Inc. and the BAAB will eventually be forwarded to the National Council of Black Mayors. We have collected approximately \$325. Mr. Fabien added that he is also in contact with Ms. Nadia Pierre in the Mayor's office and there is coordination with the MDC Emergency Operations Center. Ms. Boone and Mr. Fabien also gave an update on the delegation that traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress and Representatives on the issue of Temporary Protective Status for Haitians and South Americans.

The Economic Summit will hold a mini-summit on July 10th. The major event will occur in November.

Ms. Boone shared a copy of the County Ordinance requiring that all members of Boards fill out a Financial Disclosure Statement. This is a new requirement for our Board. She will forward the forms in the near future.

BAAB By-Laws Review: Ms. Nelson-Goedert gave a thorough report and presented a draft of the by-laws for the Board's perusal. One major topic was whether the Board should expand and the manner in which new board members would be added. She will be finalizing the by-laws so they can be given to the Clerk of Courts and for our records.

(more)

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning: Mr. Didier Fabien reminded members that the Pillars Awards is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 2008. Nominations are still being taken and members are encouraged to send them. Ms. Boone will forward the packets again.

Education: Ms. McMillon reported that as she attends the School Board meetings, there are several issues which we should follow. Among them is the fact that the Board is considering consolidating regional offices from six to four. She also reported that in reference to the Student Voter Registration project, she spoke with Student Services at Miami-Dade Public Schools to receive an update. They conducted another drive which netted some 1,100 forms from the affected mostly inner city schools. Mr. Person also alerted the members to a situation developing in the North Dade area involving the Andover and Michael Krop Senior High feeder pattern. He will keep us updated. Ms. McMillon also spoke on the Parent Academy and its importance.

Health Care: Ms. Marie Jose Ledan/Ketlyn Alexis are planning a Village Dialogue on Health next month. Ms. Boone will investigate and coordinate the event with Commissioners Rolle and Edmonson's office.

Housing: No report

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life: Ms. Priscilla Dames (no report)

Economic Development : Ms. Lazarre: (no report)

Budget & Finance: No report

New Business: There was a discussion on whether the meeting times/dates were conflicting and if a change was needed. After some discussion, it was decided to let the meetings remain the same and perhaps think about having a meeting at other locations.

Old Business: None

Announcements/Discussion/Adjournment: None

With all business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 11: 50 a.m.