



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 21st, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

111 NW 1st Street, Room 18-3

Miami, FL 33128

Members Present: Lupe Bruneman, Betty Hermida, Brenda Lampon, Rosa Kasse, Barby Morales

Members Absent: Magali Abad, Johnnie Mae Kerr, Dionne Polite, Armando Riera, Mario Tapia

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. There was no quorum. Approval of the agenda and minutes are moved to January.

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Committee Report

Only Betty made the committee meeting so there was just a brief discussion, rather than a full blown meeting. The discussion went over the location for the resource fair, the farmshare volunteer event, logistics for the next meeting, and the resource guide. The resource guide will be done soon; we've made some edits to the formatting and the information to be included.

V. Work Group Updates

The Elder Issues Committee hasn't met this month. The EVA is not meeting this month. Lupe asked for information to join the work groups. Katherine will forward the EIC information to the board and find out the EVA requirements. Betty let everyone know that she was appointed to the Alliance. She's going to find out if she can share the information discussed at meetings with the board.

VI. Old Business

BCC Updates: Our membership item was reviewed at the Infrastructure, Operations, and Innovations committee on November 13th. It was forwarded to the BCC.

Resource Fair: MDC Kendall wants to charge \$8,000 and was unwilling to waive the fee. Some suggested alternative locations are Milander Park, the Main Library, the Fair Expo Center, and FIU's Graham Center ballrooms.

Events: Only one person submitted a volunteer form so the Farmshare event has been cancelled.

Resource Guide: Lupe asked to go over the resource guide. Katherine reviewed all the changes that will be made. Lupe confirmed that the committee voted to remove the year and add an edition number instead. Rosa suggested that we have every for-profit business donate money to the support the guide by informing them of the opportunity to donate. Lupe and Barby concurred. Barby also suggested that we include parameters of what they can donate. In January, the board will vote on this.

VII. New Business

Elections: Since there was no quorum, elections were moved to January.

General Discussion: Rosa asked to see if there was something to be done to talk about employment. Katherine reminded the board of the letter of concern we sent to the Commissioners regarding employment discrimination against older adults. This issue was not picked up with the rest of the items we sent. We can approach it in the new year. We will put it on the agenda as a discussion item.

VIII. Public Forum

Once business was concluded, the board began their public forum at 11:15 a.m. Twaquilla Eatman from the City of Miami introduced herself to the board. She works for the Human Services Department. Artpad, Inc. then gave a short presentation on what they do in the community. If anyone is interested in taking part in their program, they can reach out to Reikha Kanhia.

A man named Eric from District 5 was concerned about the lack of men on the board because men's senior issues need to be addressed. He was concerned about attendance at the different senior programs. He wants to know why no one is attending the classes or participating in programs. He thinks a survey should be done of the men in the community to see what their views are. He's also concerned about transportation because of the changes that took place at the County level. Many seniors lost access to services and transportation with the changes. Katherine informed him that we will be having a meeting at DeHostos which is struggling because of the transportation changes. Eric is hosting a meeting at his apartment building to discuss transportation, specifically regarding the 211 bus which helped a lot of seniors.

A woman named Norma, who volunteers at Senior Planet, informed the board that she has been there for six months and this is not the first time that transportation has been brought up. She stated that she believes people don't come because of a lack of transportation.

Eric told the board he's glad that we're coming to the different community centers to get feedback from diverse perspectives. He mentioned possibly asking for a stipend to provide seniors a position as "community ambassadors" that can go around informing seniors of the various services available. The board liked that idea because they think it is important for us to be reaching out to the community and sharing information. The discussion then went over the importance of outreach, community action, and collaboration with various community resources.

IX. Announcements

Katherine informed the board that the DeHostos resource fair is tomorrow.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.