**Minutes of the Meeting of the Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board**

**February 20, 2024; 12:00pm – 2:00pm, City Hall Conference Rm 2-C**

**Members Present:** Miguel DiPierri, Dr. Carmen Martinez, Jose Morales, Zergihno Roell Garcia, Aida Seeraj

**Staff Present:** Kara Tucker and Tereese Goodloe

**Guest Present:** Dr. Parvez Ahmed (Mayor’s Office), Cesar E. Marfill (Jax Mex Chambers) and Javier Maldonado

* **Meeting called to Order by Chair, Jose Morales**
* **Introductions & Announcements by Chair:**
  + As result of Covid we lost Chair & Vice-Chair in 2022,
  + 6 board members (not able to replace),
  + 7 active members currently,
  + Draft Report to review,
  + Goals for the year: need to select Chair & Vice-Chair.
* **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Parvez Ahmed
* Hispanic Heritage Month-Mayor’s office would like to see MHAAB and other Hispanic partners in the City to be a part of planning this year.
* Already spoke to Sports & Entertainment, who helps with Event Planning, in regards to Hispanic Heritage Month.
* Appetite and desire to be much more intentional in the way we do Hispanic Heritage Month.
* Mayor’s goal is to be supportive!
* Need the Boards input on how you want this to be done from the Mayor’s perspective.

**Question:** Budget from the Mayor or go get from community?

Dr. Ahmed: both, Hispanic Heritage Month in September 15-October 15, events after October 1 can include in Mayor’s Budget, next budget approved in July 2024 and becomes effective October 1st. Council Member Aries is also interested in helping with funding. Come up with a budget (awards, dinner, venue-City owned-free however pay for Labor). Earlier put a programing package together, the earlier we will have a sense of how much the City could contribute and how much to be raised through corporate giving. Also can work with our Sports & Entertainment Division to approach major corporations to fund raise, can mirror the MLK Breakfast (city event but corporate sponsorship).

* Promotion free through radio station
  + - * Ticket sell (mirror MLK Breakfast)
      * Set up a committee to start planning and come up with a proposal.

**Question:** Can we do something with the City and Mexican Council for a permanent spot to conduct an event for multi-passport program 3 times a year?

* Issues are: more than 200 people daily-too small, not enough parking, no internet.
* **More of IT issue for cyber security because connecting/sending info to the Mexican Government per Kara Tucker**
* Goal of Mayor’s Office is to be supportive of the Hispanic Community, it’s a growing community.
* Trying to look for ways we can be more supportive than previous administration.
* Jax Chambers working with JSEP to help Small Business Owners, wanting to do business with the City, understand the process and get certified.
* **Public Comment: Zergihno Roell Garcia**
* Invite to after party for Mexican Golf Federation, PGA Tour, Mexican Tournament, special party for people involved, March 15th, in Ponte Vedras.
* **Approval of Minutes from 12/2023 & 01/16/2024:**
* No Quorum
* **Meeting Schedule (Dates/Time/Location)**
* Community Meetings – 3 Town Halls:
* 1st Town Hall: April 13th, Saturday/10am/Inspire to Rise – Topic: Healthcare Wellness – cancel April 16 meeting.
* Topic for 2nd Town Hall: Business (will discuss at next meeting).
* 3rd Town Hall we will wait for new members to come in to discuss.
* **Old Business**
  + Achievement:

Successfully advocated and achieved a Spanish Outreach position with the City of Jacksonville.

* + 2023 Year Report:

Review and if have anything to add send to Kara and Tereese

* + Attendance:

Will start sending letters every month. After 3 unexcused, have to be excused (call/email/communicate)

* + New Members:

New Member Applications-Garrett working on/will be processed soon.

* + Election of Chair & Vice Chair (No Quorum)
* **Goals for 2024** 
  + Employment:

COJ Career Fair and 1 of the Town Halls: Invite HR Department

* + Meeting with Mayor:

Have a proposal for Hispanic Heritage Month ready. Bullet points on what we want to bring up to the Mayor. Month of May

* + Hispanic Heritage Month Planning
* Health Fair:

Access to Health-Dr. Carmen Martinez interested in doing obesity challenge, panel or engaging people to think about exercise, holistic ideas.

* + Presenters:

Kara (update)-CM Raul Aries-waiting to hear back on when he’s available to attend.

* **New Business**
  + FSCJ:

English as a Second Language-need to find contact-offer somewhere where the people can go learn English.

* **Events**
  + World of Nations – February 24-25th

Will attend: Jose Morales, Miguel DiPierri and Aida Seeraj

* + Caesar Chavez – March 29th
  + COJ Career Fair – April 9th
  + Mental Health Awareness Month – April
  + Sexual Assault & Victim Advocates Week:

Proclamation will be read first Tuesday in April

* + Health & Wellness Fair – covered
  + Overdose on Awareness Month - August
  + Hispanic Heritage Month 2024:

September 15th – October 15th; will set up a meeting between now and the 19th for those interested in being on the planning committee.

* **Website**
  + Need to update however wait till we meet with the Mayor in May and will do a new picture to add.
* **Meeting Adjourn by Chair.**

Chair: Jose Morales

Vice-Chair: *Vacant*

**Disabled Services Division**

(904) 255-5466