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

**June 18, 2024; 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Main Library/303 N Laura Street**

**Members Present:** Pablo Diaz De Sandi, Dr. Carmen Martinez, Jose Morales & Sabrina Marcos Smith

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

**Guest Present:** Jennifer Bujansuris & Nashaira Morales (DCF Hope Florida), Cheya Thousand (CT Wellness, JSEB), Gregory Grant (JSEB), CM Raul Arias & Evin Herzberg

* **Meeting Called to Order:** by Chair, Jose Morales at approximately 12:15pm
* **Pledge of Allegiance:** All stood for the pledge
* **Welcome & Introductions:** Jose recognized, thanked and welcomed CM Arias. And welcomed visitors/guest, Nasharia Morales & Jennifer Bujansuris.
* **Public Comment** – N/A (none)
* **Guest Speakers:** 
  + **Nasharia Morales** (DCF Hope Navigator) – they help people to try to overcome barriers by looking for those resources that they need to become self-sufficient be it going back to school, employment, housing, bill payment, whatever they need to become self-sufficient.

What brought her to MHAAB: been here for 7 years from PR, daughter just graduated from high school but was a challenge to get her to walk across the stage for graduation. Their first language is Spanish but did not know how to address issues with getting the daughter to pass the SAT due to it being in English and not offered in Spanish, daughter is straight A student but struggled to pass SAT and almost could not walk stage to get Diploma. It was very stressful because it was like a punishment for her. She already got accepted into college, she already completed all her schooling making good grades and not because she cannot pass this test that’s only offered in English!

* **Comments:** Jose Morales – We need to figure out how we can advocate for a work-around the process. Pablo Diaz De Sandi - thanked Nasharia for having the courage to come out and make the board aware of this issue.
* **CM Raul Arias –** Thanked the Board for having him and Evin (EA) here, states he will make a commitment to be here but when he can’t Evin will be. CM states we need more representation and need the city to be more involved with what MHAAB is doing. One thing that stands out from today’s meeting is the fact that we didn’t meet Quorum. CM states we need to have a board full of members who are dedicated and passionate about this, reason why I’ve spoken to the mayor and her team and I’m going to spearhead from the city side to be here to show that the city is interested in working with you all. I’ve made it a point to support all communities and ask that the council in turn support the Hispanic community and all communities as well, so my goal is to get $100k for Hispanic Heritage Month. Alex Alston and YaYa are spearheading as Advisory Board for Hispanic Heritage Month, asking that we support it, we do the best possible this year being year #1 that way we can ask for more for next year. We need private dollars as well. Secondly, we need to stack this board with more dedicated people. Because Quorum not met, there’s not much action taken. Working on some legislation with Dr. Parvez to see how we can change some of the boards and with Mr. Dennis to add more people, that’s my commitment to help take this to the next level.
  + **Comments:** Jose Morales – last 4 months we have been sending letters to take 2 people off board, we were supposed to vote 2 people off today, but no Quorum so point taken. Pablo Diaz De Sandi – thanked CM Arias for being here. Agrees 100% on representation, gave his support for underrepresented areas.
* **Gregory Grant –** JSEB program commitment to the Hispanic community and all communities. When looking at how do we create resources of equity for different demographics or different ethnicities we have to create those resources internally first. Resources concentrated on in JSEB are Education, Community, Capitol & Contracting. So, I been working with YaYa who spearheaded a meeting where I met with all the presidents of the Chambers to figure out how to bring the community together and help support the small Hispanic Businesses. What came out of this meeting is that The Entrepreneurship Education Center over off Golfair will be open this Fall (2024) and all the Chambers are going to come together and use that as one Resource Hub to offer resources to the Hispanic community. Also, every month we will conduct the Equal Business Opportunity Forums and we will have an EBO Forum dedicated to the Hispanic Community only, every 2nd Tuesday in the Main Library starting in August, conducted in Spanish, we will be teaching how to contract with the government in the Hispanic Language, also how to access capitol.
  + **Comments:** Jose Morales - can count on us to help where we can to make it better. CM Arias - if possible, would like to shift the August jumpstart Forum to the FSCJ Deerwood Campus, on a weekend, I will get the space on a Saturday in the morning to have maximum participation, states he will show up and then from there let people know it will be here (Main Library) every 2nd Tuesday. Just making the first one a little more Grand and outside of downtown. Gregory Grant asked if we could get the Deerwood Campus permanently. Evin will look into getting permanently. Pablo Diaz De Sandi offered to bring in support from VyStar for financial literacy from someone who speaks Spanish.
* **Cheya Thousand –** Supporting JSEP and SCORE and what’s available to the community as resources. SCORE is a free resource, SPDC is a free resource for small business development and most people in the community do not know about these free resources, just go online and sign up.
* **Approval of Minutes from 12/2023, 01/2024, 02/2024 & 03/2024 (Quorum)**
* We do not have a Quorum.
* We were supposed to vote on a bunch of issues including minutes, vice-chair, get nominations in.
* We were supposed to vote 2 members out. Will send more letters out.
* **Meeting Schedule**
* Next Town Hall/*Outreach Event* (still planning)- Financial Workshop?
  + Pablo Diaz De Sandi will help and bring people to do financial literacy classes
* **Financial Town Hall:** Pablo Diaz De Sandi – Small Business part can be a good pilot and if we like, expand that to the community at-large and pair it with a town hall. If we decide that’s what we’re gonna do, we can talk more on a sub-committee level about what that looks like. Per CM Arias make sure we have as much marketing material as possible.
* **Hispanic Heritage Planning committee** – per Jose Morales next Meeting later this afternoon, 06/18 on awards, volunteered the board to help, last Hispanic Heritage Awards was in 2018. We need to help identify award winners and which categories; Jose will email everybody the Award categories. If you want to be a part of that board, I’ll make sure to tag YaYa to let her know. Pablo Diaz De Sandi and Evin Herzberg would like to be a part of. **Comments:** Pablo Diaz De Sandi – a Group of businessmen got together last year and did a Hispanic Tailgate at one of the Jags games, they formed a committee (Pablo is a part of that committee) to do again this year. The jags want to be a part of this year (they were not last year). Pablo would like for that to be a part of the coordinated events that are happening with the city so that we are recognizing all the organizations that are doing something during Hispanic Heritage Month and it turns into something that we promote and partner together.
* CM Arias would like us to invite Alex Alston because he is the one that will say yes or no to these events.
* **Old Business/New Business**
* Met with Garret Dennis last November and got some new board members in
* CM Arias and Garrett Dennis addressing the representation issue with Hispanics working with the city. CM Arias will get an update at the next meeting and will get a report on positions – Leadership? / Entry level?
* Attendance – sending letters out again this month as an update
  + Election of Chair & Vice Chair – get nominations in – *can* nominate yourself
  + MHAAB Board Secretary position still open
  + Banner or new tablecloth – trust fund only $200
  + Sub-Committee – **Recommendations:** Jose Morales
    1. Social media & Business (Business would headline social media)
    2. Education, Healthcare & Wellness
    3. Public Safety, Veterans & Faith
* come back next month to vote on:
* Think of what Sub-Committee you want to serve on:
* FSCJ: English as a 2nd Language – Still need – option:
  + English Classes – Starting June 4th (update/YaYa)
* **2024 Goals** 
  + **Employment** – Percentage of Hispanic people working for city is 5%.
  + **Meeting with Mayor** – trying to get a meeting schedule with Mayor Deegan – come up with bullet points on topics to speak about
  + **Hispanic Heritage Month** – Awards categories will be emailed to the board by Jose Morales.
* **Events –** If there’sevents or things you think we need to be in just bring it up and we will put it on the agenda.
  + Caesar Chavez – March 29th
  + Health & Wellness Fair – May
  + Inspire to Rise – Aida Seeraj hosting event about Youth Mental Health for Mental Health Awareness Month– Thursday, 05/23/2024
  + Achieving the Dream Luncheon – 05/30/2024
  + Public Safety – JaxReady Fest
  + Overdose on Awareness Month - August
* **Website**
* **Adjourn Meeting**

**Chair:** Jose Morales / **Vice-Chair:** *Vacant*

**Members:** Anamaria Contreras, Pablo Diaz De Sandi, Miguel DiPierri,

Nicole Landa, Jorge Lopez, Dr. Carmen Martinez, Zergihno Roell Garcia,

Aida Seeraj & Sabrina Marcos Smith

**Disabled Services Division**

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